THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 27TH APRIL.

WE HAVE heard often of conversions of European Christianmen into Mahometanism, but here comes the news of a European Christian lady accepting Buddhism for her religion. She hails from Bombay, and her name is Miss Mary Flynn. A Colombo correspondent of a contemporary thus describes the event:—"Miss Flynn expressed her desire to publicly proclaim her faith in Buddhism, and I had the honour of accompanying her to the High Priest's temple, where it was arranged to have the ceremony done. We were cordially received at the library by the Rt. Rev. Sumangala. It was a decent upstair building with a grove of cocoanut palms and other ornamental trees at its front, and presented a lovely sight from a distance. A flight of steps brought us to the second floor, which consisted of shelves laden with works of oriental lore. Its eastern wing consisted of works relating to Buddhism, bound in ola leaves, and set with precious stones, in the true oriental style; the walls were graced with fine mounted photos of places resorted to by Buddhist pilgrims; on a side table were placed statues of the lord Buddha, and a bell-shaped golden vessel with the Sapara relics enclosed. Here devotees bow down and worship in memory of the lord. Exactly at 1 P.M. the High Priest came in, when the audience present, including Miss Flynn, after paying their respects to his reverence sat down on the rich Persian carpets which covered the floor. The High Priest then inquired of Miss Flynn the reasons that led her to accept the philosophy of the Lord Buddha. After she had answered most satisfactorily the question to her, the Rt. Rev. Sumangala administered the 'Pansil' in Paly, which Miss Flynn repeated after him and promised to observe it. The 'Ratna Suttra' was then chanted by twenty-two priests arrayed in yellow silk robes. The ceremony all throughout was solemn in the extreme. Miss Mary Flynn is a member of the Theosophical Society, and is an earnest worker for its cause."

THE *Englishman's* Military correspondent tells us that "our total force in Egypt at present, on the Nile and at Suakin, numbers 24,754, without including the Indian and Australian contingents. Of this number 965 are on the sick list, but this is rapidly increasing, especially on the Nile, where we have seven thousand men badly clothed and worse shod, scantily fed, and imperfectly sheltered. The men are reported as listless, depressed, worn-out, and can hardly be got to do anything, save lie on their backs in such shade as they can find. Probably before the hot season is over, 50 per cent. of them will have been invalided or died, and those who remain nominally fit for duty will not be in a condition to enter on an autumn campaign. There is some talk of trying to replace them by troops from Lower Egypt and the Mediterranean, but the difficulties are believed to be almost insurmountable. Our men at Suakin, marching and counter-marching as they are all day long, are far from being properly fed, and General Graham has asked for reinforcements for the Transport corps, in consequence of which six officers, 16 clerks, and 141 noncommissioned officers and men are under orders for immediate departure."

THE *Pi* had last week a paragraph on the Tenancy Act. It took upon itself to inform the landholders whose vitals the Act will eat away that the hope of interference by the Secretary of State in the matter of the Act is too much for the ill-fated zemindars to expect, and that they may take it for granted that the Act will receive the assent of the Secretary of State as usual. It says: "The agitators who still continue to fall foul of this or that provision of the Bengal Rent Act, and the 'well-informed correspondents', who encourage them with suggestions of modifications contemplated by the Secretary of State, appear to be harbouring a delusion which some one should remove. The fact, of course, is that the Secretary of State has no power to modify or mutilate any measure that is passed into law by the Indian Legislature. An Act passed by the Council here has to be referred to the Secretary of State, who in due course usually informs the Government of India, that it has been considered in Council and will be left to its operation—though even this is, strictly speaking, a superfluity, for the Act becomes law on passing. On the other hand, the Secretary of State can, if he thinks fit, exercise a veto, upon which it ceases to be law any longer. Whether he is likely to do this in the case of the Rent Act even the agitation party, we imagine, should be well able to judge. But between 'veto' and 'pass' there is no middle course." Is this a *communique sub rosa* from the Bengal Office, or a gra*munique* service for that office? Either way it will not have much effect on the victims.

TUESDAY, 28TH APRIL.

THERE IS just at present very great depression in industry in England. Last month, some 15,000 persons met on the Thames embankment and sent a deputation to the Local Government Board Secretary, Mr. G. W. Russell, asking Government to find work for the labourers. As usual, the deputation received some sweet words instead of bread. A writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, after giving a horrid description of the sufferings of the labouring [illegible], concludes his letter with the following anathema on free trade. "It is necessary, despite the canons of political economy, that the Imperial Government should replace the local powers, and that relief works should be provided. This is the end of the grand doctrines of free trade, self-help, *laissez faire*, and so on, that have been not only glorified by admiring writers, but in undisputed command of British legislation for the last quarter of a century."

"SYED NOOROOL HOOSAIN, known as a *pir* (saint) from Bombay, has been entertained in Howrah by Babu Baney Madhub Mookerjee, an interpreter of the High Court, Calcutta, for the past six or seven months. He has the power to effect miraculous cures of incurable diseases. During the last cold weather he passed 51 days [illegible] by burying nearly the whole of his body under water; he is living for nearly a fortnight inside a *pucca* grave six feet deep, which has been wholly covered over with masonry, keeping only a small hole (the diameter of which is about two inches) in order to serve him with his daily food, which simply consists of an orange or pomegranate juice with one almond only; in this state, he will remain for 51 consecutive days, and through the hole a string has been passed into the grave, one end of it being tied to a bell suspended on a bamboo post near the grave to enable him to give the alarm in case he encountered any danger or mishap by pulling the string and ringing the bell; also to respond to calls inquiring after his health in like manner, signifying thereby that he was all right. The *pir* entered the grave with his bedding, some holy books, two or three bottles of rose water and one or two phials of otto of roses; after which the opening over the grave was blocked up, barring the hole; and then, levelling the place with earth some grains were sown, and which, being regularly watered, are thriving nicely all over the grave. The *pir* has taken the rose water with him, it is said, in lieu of plain water to wash his face, hands and feet before saying his daily prayers. A money order came to his address from Bombay five or six days ago, which was rolled up and dropped into the grave through the hole, and it was soon after returned through the hole duly signed by the *pir*." There is no limit to human gullibility or, not to offend our theosophic friends, there are more things in earth than are dreamt of &c.

THE DUKE of Marlborough has had an interesting little passage-at-arms with the *Times* newspaper. "On Monday, March 23, he drew attention in Parliament to the air of inspiration pervading some of the militant leading articles it has lately published against Russia. Compositions of this kind, he said, were invested with an authority by foreign Governments and diplomatists which did not belong to them, and were regarded as *communiques* expressing the opinions of the Cabinet of the day. Lord Granville in reply said "it was quite true that on the Continent much importance was attributed to the opinions expressed by *The Times*; but any one who had read the articles of that paper on foreign affairs during the last year could scarcely suppose that, even if he had the ability, he could have contributed to them, because he would have been like Sheridan, who wrote a brilliant attack upon himself and forgot to reply to it. At the same time he thought that he would be establishing a novel precedent if he were to express either agreement with, or dissent from, the whole or part of a newspaper article." Our Governments should bear this in mind.

AN AMUSING story is told of a candidate for one of the north-western metropolitan boroughs. The gentleman in question was interviewed by a deputation of Conservatives, and was invited to state his political views. "He modestly confessed that they were not very decided. He had been abroad for some years, he said, and had not enjoyed opportunities to study politics. The deputation looked askance at each other, for they had naturally expected that a candidate who desired to represent them in Parliament would have been able to explain, if not to justify, his creed. At last the gentleman confessed that he had lately been reading some of Mr. Goschen's speeches, and he thought he could pretty well agree with the sentiments of the member for Ripon. One stalwart Conservative among the deputation could not stand this answer, and called out in a loud voice, 'We don't want any of your [illegible] the land of Goschen.'"

[illegible]

SAYS THE *K[illegible]* [illegible] has found [illegible] of Brest, of *United Ireland*, and [illegible] oppressed nationality. The wrongs of [illegible] and are common; their tyrant is the same. And so a 'high native authority' comes forward to enlist [illegible] Moonlighters, and National Leaguers [illegible] sad tale of woe. The Babu's letter is [illegible] spiteful and as comic [illegible] usually are. English men in [illegible] habitually indulging in [illegible] torturing prisoners in [illegible] administration of the law. [illegible] judgment done worse. 'For years past,' he declares, 'in India, as in Ireland, England has looked to her 'national' school system to debauch the youth of Hindustan—to shame them out of their native languages and out of the creeds of their fathers, and turn them into vile copies of the Eurasian." But this wicked attempt to convert the heathen has justly failed. "A young India has arisen, educated, manly, keenly alive to its own physical and intellectual power, and bitterly resentful of the galling inferiority imposed upon it by a handful of whey-faced English and Scotch Civil Service clerks and superannuated soldiers. Young India has its native literature, its newspapers, its Land League branches; has nothing but kind words for Mr. Parnell and his party, cheers for the Mahdi; watches the approach of the Russian armies; and keeps a sharp look out for the day when the redcoats will have employment far away on the Afghan borders, and the two hundred millions will have an hour of reckoning with their oppressors." It is to be highly regretted that the Anglo-Indian spirit of carping at the Babu in season and out of season has also overtaken the newspapers in England. It is the rank meanness of some journals, both here and in England, that is trying to keep the old sore alive between the races, and we cannot censure them too highly for the mischief they are doing by their short-sighted policy. The sooner they put a restraint on their rabid tongue, the better for them.

THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE is in communication with the French and German Governments concerning the fraudulent practice of placing the name "Sheffield" on cutlery manufactured in those countries.

"THE NEWEST thing in the direction of woman's progress" says a contemporary, "is the introduction into a London newspaper office of a young lady to take charge of the war telegrams. She is said to manage matters very well indeed."

"QUITE a sensation has been produced in London, especially amongst the ladies, by Mrs. Longshore Potts, Doctor of Medicine of the Women's College of Philadelphia. This lady has been lecturing at St. James Hall to ladies only, and has been dealing rather freely with some questions. It is stated that

c onsiderable complaint has arisen in consequence of Mrs. Potts treating two or three subjects in such a way as to communicate information of an undesirable kind to girls of tender years. In some cases this has given rise to embarrassment in the domestic circle, where precocious girls have made inquiries at the tea table as to what Mrs. Potts meant by this and that. The lady doctor strongly deprecates the use of corsets and an undue consumption of meat and alcoholic stimulants. She advocates loose clothing, and sees no reason why ladies should not wear trousers just like men. But the most revolutionary portion of Mrs. Potts' lectures relates to her proposal concerning marriage. On the subject of love and courtship she had much to say, so much, indeed, that some mothers who had taken their daughters with them wished they had left them at home. Mrs. Potts advocates an entire revolution in the present manner of courting. She affirms that two-thirds of the married people in the world are miserable, for the simple reason that the ladies are not allowed to propose to the men. She believes if society would let women enjoy that privilege as well as men, many of the matches made would be happier. She absolutely condemns the restriction that compels a girl to sit in silence whilst he on whom she has set her affections goes and proposes to another girl, unconscious of the fact that there is a girl loving him supremely. Amongst Mrs. Potts's audience a good many fashionable ladies were seen." Indian reformers, please take note of this.

THURSDAY, 30TH APRIL.

SOME CURIOSITIES of despatch writing are noticed in the *Leisure Hour*. "During the French 'War of the Fronde' a leading member of the popular party transmitted an important letter in a roasted crab. The order which decided the great sea-fight of Solebay in the reign of Charles II. was carried by a little cabin-boy, who swam through the fire of the Dutch fleet with the paper in his mouth, and that boy afterwards wrote his name in history as Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel. Immediately before the outbreak of the Seven Years War, Frederick the Great's emissaries in Saxony discovered several treasonable despatches hidden under the skin of a Bologna sausage! One of the Jacobite leaders of 1745, when about to be surprized in his own house by a party of soldiers, was warned of the necessity of instant *flight* by the gift of a feather from a friendly neighbour, the meaning of which although somewhat ambiguous, yet to his credit be it spoken, he at once divined. Warren Hastings, when blockaded in Benares by Cheyet Sing, succeeded in communicating with the English army by a singular use of his knowledge of Asiatic customs. He inserted thin rolls of parchment into the quills which his native messengers wore in their ears, and thus sent his despatches safely through the very midst of the besieging force. The fall of Robespierre in 1794 was telegraphed to the prisoners in the Abbaye from the roof of an adjoining house by holding up a *robe* and a *stone (pierre)*, and then flinging both down into the street. When the Russian garrison of Samarcand was hemmed in by the Bokharites in 1868, a loyal native succeeded in passing through the enemy's camp with a letter stitched up in his sandal, with which he reached General Kaufmann's army just in time to recall it to the rescue. It is even stated on good authority—although it must be owned that the statement has a strong 'Munchausen' flavour about it—that a French spy in 1870 traversed the German lines with a photographic despatch concealed in the hollow of one of his false teeth!"

A PERSIAN paper, *Schems*, publishes the following news-letter from Herat:—"Our city resembles a military camp, in which divisions of troops are continually coming and going. The population lives in forced idleness; because the fears of the Russian army appearing at any moment have caused trade with Persia, Turkistan, and Bokhara to cease altogether. The war is proclaimed in every mosque, and the Imams from the pulpit explain to the people that Believers must pray to remain under the sway of Moslem Princes, and that to be governed by Christians like the Czar would be a misfortune. They remind the people that the Czar is the enemy of the Caliph in Constantinople, and his ardent wish is to turn the Ottoman Empire into a Christian province. The Imams frighten the people by telling them that if the Russians take the city, they will at once build churches and convents, and that from Herat's minarets the Christian cross will shine as from those of Merv."

A CASE of outrage by soldiers is reported from Simla. Some soldiers of the royal artillery located at Jutogh, attacked, under the influence of liquor, the residence of the Rajah of Jhind, situated near Boileangunj, on the outskirts of Simla. They forced the doors of the house, entered it, and tumbled over some furniture and broke others. The damage done by the men comes up to about Rs. 500. We should very much like to know if the soldiers were punished, or were allowed to go scot-free as having done all this outrage in a boyish freak.

A CONTEMPORARY STATES that Mr. W. E. Hart, Judge of the Bombay Small Cause Court will act for the Hon. Mr. Justice Cunningham of the Calcutta High Court. The Calcutta Municipality will now have a breathing time of it, as the Sanitary-Justice of the highest judicial court of Bengal goes home on leave.

THE GOVERNMENT has settled the question of attachment of a military clerk's pay by his creditor on the strength of a civil court decree. The pay of a military clerk is composed partly of his military pay proper, and partly of the pay of the office he is serving in. The latter was thought liable to attachment in execution of civil court decrees. But the Government has now exempted his office pay also from attachment. The creditors of military clerks must now go to the wall.

WITH REGARD to mortality in the jails of Bengal as compared with that of Madras jails the *Indian Daily News*, says:—"Can the inspector-General of Jails in Bengal explain how it is that the mortality amongst prisoners confined in the Bengal jails is much grater than in the Madras jails? In the year 1883-84, the prison death-rate in Bengal was 49·2 per mille, an exceptionally favourable return, while in the same year the Madras prisons had a mortality bill of only 28·64 per thousand. The favourite theory of the Bengal authorities to account for the enormous mortality which occurs annually in certain of their jails is that it is due to the unhealthiness of the districts in which they are situated. The health returns of the two Presidencies for the year referred to do not bear out this theory; for while Madras had a jail death-rate considerably lower than that of Bengal, the general death-rate of the Southern province was higher namely, 19·0 per cent as compared to 18·82 in Bengal. Further in Madras in 1882-83, with a provincial death-rate of only 1·62 there was a jail death-rate of 40·73 and while in the succeeding year the provincial death-rate increased, the jail death-rate fell considerably. The experience of Madras would not seem to bear out the Bengal theory." That the Southen Presidency is much more unhealthy than Bengal cannot be gainsaid, but the low rate of jail mortality there is, perhaps, owing to the absence of cruelty that is practiced in our jails. And, perhaps, that is the only explanation which our Inspector General can give to our contemporary's question.

WE QUOTE the following antidote against mosquitoes from a Sydney contemporary. A table spoonful of carbolic acid is to be put on a plate, and a heated piece of iron placed in the acid; the white fumes that will arise from the combustion of the acid will promptly drive all flies and mosquitoes from out of the room. But what will destroy them wholesale, can any body tell us?

IT IS REPORTED that the Mullas of Herat are preaching a *jehad* against the Russians as being of the Christian faith. But will such a *jehad* mend matters much?

FRIDAY, 1ST MAY.

THE *Army and Navy Gazette* says:—"It is a sufficient comment on the silly and intemperate counsels to break treaty obligations with the Native Princes of India, and force them to disband their armies, given by journals of great weight and repeated by journals of no weight at all, that at the present moment there is much exultation over the prospect of assistance from those very armies, and that there is great gratification expressed in India and at home at the manner in which the Princes of India, Hindu and Mahomedan, have come forward with offers of service in support of the Government. Had one step been taken to further the truculent policy of anti-native Anglo-Indians, the bitter enmity of every Rajah and Nawab in Hindustan would certainly have been directed against the Government of India when we most needed their friendship."

"THE MADRAS POLICE are jubilant over the fact that old offenders are offered an opportunity, now that war's alarms are calling troops to the front, of taking to the honest calling of muleteers and cart-drivers on a salary of Rs. 10 a month, and thus withdrawing themselves from the surveillance of the local Blues."

THE *Englishman's* own correspondent at Simla, in trying to give an idea of what enormous expenses the Government will be put to, should the Anglo-Russian crisis end in war, states that each fighting man of the Indian contingent at Suakin costs India between six and seven hundred rupees monthly; and even this otherwise high charge he considers small, in consequence of the troops being stationed near the sea, where they can be supplied with their necessaries with comparative ease. He thinks that each fighting man would, on an average, cost monthly Rs. 1200 nearly. Regarding the taxes that will have to be imposed on account of the Russian imbroglio, he says: "Should special measures be required, as seems likely, to meet the financial difficulties of the current year, it is said to be probable that some modification of the License tax will be adopted in preference of the imposition of an income tax. But it is impossible to foretell what financial measures may be necessitated under the stress of war. It would not be surprising if an effort were made to re-impose the import duties. Meanwhile, it seems that the financial difficulties of the year have been aggravated by another bumper opium crop. This, though advantageous to the Government in the long run, involves an immediate extra outlay of about 52 lakhs."

THE AMIR, in return for his G. C. S. I., decorated at least one distinguished officer with two Afghan Orders, invented by His Highness in his leisure moments. When the next instalment of his subsidy reaches Kabul, Abdur Rahman intends holding a solemn Chapter of the "Silver Fleece," which is the most popular Order in Afghanistan: the decoration will be a simple rupee. Let us hope its popularity will not give way to the Order of the "Rouble."

THE AGRICULTURAL statistics of Ireland for 1884 disclose a very curious fact, that the number of acres under wheat cultivation has decreased by 30 per cent., although the produce of wheat land has been steady. Is this distaste for wheat cultivation owing to the wise Land Act of 1880?

"MR. JOHN MORLEY, addressing a meeting at Newcastle, said that if on an examination of the official papers they found that Russia asked that which we could not grant, the unanimous cry of the country would be 'Fight,' but with his present information he did not see anything to prevent the question being settled by arbitration." But, we think, the disease has past cure, and now 'arbitration' would mean cajolery and asking for mercy. If England wants to keep her *prestige* in tact, it ought to take a bold front, and meet its enemy face to face.

SATURDAY, 2ND MAY.

"A LITTLE GIRL, four years of age, is entertaining Chupra with her performances. This wonderful child can read the whole of the *koran* correctly. Persian books, too, she can read without any difficulty. She is a daughter of a Government pensioner, a Native Doctor, living at Dinagepore." But says the Bankipore Chronicle that the daughter has accompanied her father to Chupra where she is making an income by reading books before the Mahomedan of the place.

SIR LEPEL GRIFFIN, in a letter to the *Times*, argues in favour of relying greatly on the forces of the native princes in case of a foreign war. We are glad that Sir Lepel's good sense has returned to him at this crisis. The native princes and chiefs have given ample evidence of their loyalty, and it is but due to them that their loyal offers should be accepted, and a share given them in defending their country against foreign aggression.

THE *Madras Standard* says:—"Mr. Thomas Jones, of Calcutta, who some years back visited Madras, and suggested reforms in connection with public offices at the request of "my friend Napier," has assumed the role of lecturer and is to deliver the first of a series of lectures on 'Drainage and Preventible Diseases' in connection with the Calcutta Health Society to-day, April 22, in the Dalhousie Institute. The Calcutta Health Society has Mr. Justice Cunningham for one of its staunchest supporters."

MR. BLUNT, in the last *Fortnightly* makes the following very pertinent remarks on the Indian policy of Lord Ripon and the causes which led to its failure. We have always thought so, and said as much, though not so pointedly. "That they (the Civilians) are its (Indian Government's) masters has been abundantly proved by the success of their efforts to thwart Lord Ripon's policy during the last three years. Lord Ripon came out to India on the full tide of the Midlothian victory, and quite in earnest about carrying out Midlothian ideas; nor has he faltered since. But the net result of his Viceroyalty has been almost *nil*. Every measure that he has brought forward has been defeated in detail: and so powerful has the Civil Service been that they have forced the Home Government into an abandonment, step by step, of all its Indian policy. This they have effected in part by open opposition, in part by covert encouragement of the English lay element, in part by working through the English press. When I arrived in India I found Lord Ripon

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like a school boy who has started in a race with his fellows and who has run loyally ahead, unware as yet these had stopped, and that all the world was laughing at his useless zeal. The Anglo-Indian bureaucracy had shown itself his master in spite of Midlothian victory."

A CONTEMPORARY STATES that Mr. W. E. Hart Judge of the Bombay Small Cause Court will act for the Hon. Mr. Justice Cunningham of the Calcutta High Court. The Calcutta Municipality will now have a breathing time of it as the Sanitary Justice of the highest judicial Court of Bengal goes home on leave.

A CORRESPONDENT writes :—At 12 A. M. on the 24th April, 1885 Mr. C. B. Clarke, Inspector of Schools, Assam, without any cause whatever slapped Babu Akshoy Kumar Ghosh, B. L. Government Pleader, in the Court Veranda, Sibsagor. Some believe that the Babu's independence in Local Self-Government matters turned his assailant's head ! Others say that the Babu questioned the propriety of the Inspector's order authorising the conversion of the Jorhat School House into a theatre at the instance of the planters is the cause of the unprovoked and cowardly assault. A breach of the peace was apprehended as the Pleader's servants were ready to give blow for blow at any risk. Akshoy Babu maintained an equilibrium of temper highly creditable to him. Criminal information was laid and civil suit is likely to be instituted to take up the matter to the Privy Council.

THE TOTAL number of deaths registered during the week was 292 against 253 and 341 in the 2 preceding weeks and 123 less than the corresponding week last year. Under the head of cholera there were 70 deaths against 76 and 96 in the 2 preceding weeks. The tendency of the disease appears to be towards decrease at present. The total of the week is 29 less than the quinquennial mean. From small pox there were 8 deaths against 2 and 9 in the 2 preceding weeks, the quinquennial mean being also 8.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :—

London 26 h *April.*—The Press generally approved of Mr. Gladstone's firmness in his speech, when introducing the motion for the vote of credit last night, and add that it is indicative that there are but faint hopes of a peaceful settlement of the Anglo Russian difficulty.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are returning to London.

Preparations are being made for the withdrawal of the British forces from the Soudan.

27th April—Lord E. Fitzemurice, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that the British protectorate in Egypt was on the point of concluding an arrangement with the *Bosphore Egyptien*, which would be satisfactory alike to England, France, and Egypt.

Mr. Gladstone, replying to a question, said that Sir Peter Lumsden had telegraphed that Mr. Condie Stephen had started for London with maps and details regarding Panjdeh.

Mr. Gladstone introduced the motion for a vote of credit of eleven millions sterling on account of the special preparations, and in doing so declared that, though not at war, an actual or approximate vote was necessary in view of our obligations to the Amir, and that England must see right done to the Afghans. The House of Commons agreed to the motion without discussion.

The Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of New South Wales has offered the contingent now in the Soudan for service in India.

30th April.—The *Times*, in a leading article, announces that the british proposal to the Russian Government is that an enquiry be instituted into the Panjdeh affair, and this is coupled with an offer of the delimitation of a frontier according to the Russian sense, subject, however, to the indispensable condition that Russia gives by treaty a clear and unconditional guarantee that she will not under any circumstances attempt to seize Herat.

30th April.—The powers are urging Turkey to observe neutrality in the event of a war between Russia and England. Turkey is actively increasing the defences of the Dardanelles and Therapia.

Lord Wolseley has started for Suakin from Cairo.

Suakin, 29th April—The garrison here will consist of the Birkshire and Surrey Regiments and the Indian Contingent.

Cario 29th April.—In pursuance of the arrangement made by the British protectorate, Nubar Pasha apologises to the French Consul-General, and the office of *Bosphore Egyptien* is to be opened unconditionally.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MAY 4, 1885.

SHALL RUSSIA HAVE PANJDEH ?

SUCH is the title of a pamphlet just issued by Mr. Charles Marvin, the well-known writer on the Central Asian question. Mr. Marvin has for years made this subject his special study, and his views on it are always entitled to careful and attentive consideration. The pamphlet, recently published, we need hardly say, possesses an absorbing interest at the present moment. The questions which Mr. Marvin undertakes to answer in the work under notice are :—Is Russia to retain possession of the Zulfikar Pass and Akrobat, Pul-i-Khatun and Pul-i-Khisti ? Are the Afghans to evacuate Panjdeh to make room for the Cossacks ? No more important and interesting questions could be discussed at the present moment in connection with the Central Asian problem. Mr. Marvin points out that the idea of treating the country south of Sarrakhs, between the Murghab and Hari Rud rivers, as non-Afghan territory originated with General Petrusevitch in 1879. Previous to that year the territory in question was regarded even by the Russians as part and parcel of Afghanistan. Mr. Marvin proves this to demonstration. He states that he has in his possession a large-scale map of Turkmania and Afghanistan, which was used by the late General Skobeleff during his campaign against the Tekkes. This map was given to Mr. Marvin at St. Petersburgh in 1882 by General Grodekoff, who was Skobeleff's Chief of the Staff at Geok Tepe, and who is now acting Governor-General of Turkistan. The accuracy of the map is, therefore, beyond the possibility of dispute. What does this document, which was prepared in 1881, prove ? In it every Afghan point now claimed by Russia is clearly shown to be in Afghanistan. Mr. Marvin rightly holds that when the Russians annexed Merv and Sarrakhs, early last year, the British Government should have called the attention of the St. Petersburgh Cabinet to this frontier-line, and demanded that it should be respected. On the annexation of Merv the idea first suggested by General Petrusevitch of treating the country south of Sarrackhs, between the Murghab and Hari Rud rivers, as non-Affghan territory, was adopted by the Russian Foreign Office.

Since the arrival of the Lumsden Mission on the debatable territory, the Russians, Mr. Marvin shows, have advanced up the Hari Rud and Murghab nearly one hundred miles to the outposts of Herat. He writes :—"To my view, this is a condition of things that cannot be tolerated one moment. By their seizure of Zulfikar, Nihalsheni, Akrobat, and Pul-i-khisti, the Russians have violated the sanctity of the Key of India, and from those points they must either retire, or be expelled. Panjdeh, which the Afghans have got, the Amir must keep, and any attempt to expel them must be treated as a *casus belli*. I have said that Russia has intruded on the Key of India. What is the key of India ? On this point a deal of misconception prevails, which I have been doing my utmost to dispel for a long time past. In England the impression is widespread that such English Generals as Macgregor and Hamley, and such Russian commanders as Skobeleff and Kaufmann have concurred in regarding Herat as the Key of India, because it is, or may be made, a great fortress . . . But this narrow view was totally wrong. Our Generals and the Generals of Russia value Herat not on account of its fortress, but on account of the resources of the District in which it is situated—resources in corn and beef which, if swept in to any point of the Herat district (not necessarily to Herat itself), would feed an army of one hundred thousand men, and sustain them during the final advance upon India. It is the great camping-ground, not the town of Herat, that is the Key to India. . . . There is no such camping-ground between the Caspian and Herat, and none again between Herat and the Indian border. Hence, not without reason, have the ablest Generals of England and Russia designated the District as the Key of India." Mr. Marvin thus presents the importance of Herat in its true light, and the soundness of the view he has expressed cannot be doubted for a moment. At a recent meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, General Walker, late Surveyor-General of India, read a paper on "Valleys of the Hari Rud and Murghab" prepared by Major Holdich, a member of the Indian Boundary Commission. This paper was written from the winter quarters of the Mission at Bala Murghab. Major Holdich describes the city of Herat as open, easy of investment, and commanded by adjacent hills. It is, indeed, very weak and can be easily taken by a European enemy. But the Herat District is marvellously fertile. The soil is excellent, the water-supply abundant and the possibilities of irrigation and cultivation abundant. In Central Asia the richness of the country depends simply on water, and in this respect the Herat District possesses a great advantage. Mr. Marvin is quite right in saying that by their seizure of Akrobat, Zulfikar, and Pul-i-Khisti the Russians have established themselves inside of the very limits of the Herat District. The Murghab region claimed or occupied by Russia is quite as fertile as the valley of the Hari Rud in the vicinity of Herat. Since Mr. Marvin wrote the pamphlet under notice Russia has occupied Panjdeh ; she represents the disputed territory as a barren waste, which might be surrendered without any detriment to Herat. But this representation is thoroughly inaccurate. The whole of the region in dispute is capable of cultivation. Between the Panjdeh District and Herat lies the Khusk District. Mr. Marvin has no hesitation whatever in saying that if we cede Panjdeh to-day Russia will lay her hands on Khusk to-morrow.

Even if the territory in dispute were a salt-marsh, as the Russians say it is, still she must not be allowed to violate the integrity of the Key of India. Mr. Marvin observes :—"In excusing her seizure of the outposts of Herat, Russia has pleaded the necessity for resting her frontier against a mountain barrier. But this contention will not bear examination one moment. The Paropamisus range is little more than a ridge of hills, which intervenes between the Russians and Herat. It is three thousand feet above the sea-level where Lumsden bars the road from Sarrakhs ; it is four thousand feet above the sea-level at Khusk, immediately to the north of Herat. But there is all the difference in the world between the height of an eminence above the level of the sea and its height above that of the adjacent country. Where the road from Sarrakhs crosses it the Paropamisus ridge is only nine hundred feet higher than the surrounding district. This is no barrier. Even when Lessar discovered, in 1882, how ridiculously insignificant the Paropamisus was at its western extremity, the primitive and hitherto unknown road across the pass was so good that he said vehicles could be driven over it without difficulty. This was not only the case with the road from Sarrakhs to Herat *via* Pul-i Khatun and the Robat Pass, but also the characteristic of the Merv road *via* Akrobat." It is thus clear that no mountain ridge of a difficult character divides the Herat District to the north of the Paropamisus from the Herat District to the south. Indeed, between Akrobat and Herat city the only obstacle is a small hill which can be easily crossed. Mr. Marvin pertinently observes that if the Russians were allowed to remain where they have established themselves, we might as well allow them to occupy the Suburbs of Herat ; and that to violate the integrity of one part of the Key of India is to impair the value of the whole of it. The policy of the Russian Government has always been to push forward its encroachments as far as the apathy of other Governments would allow it to go, but always to stop and retire when it met with a firm and decided resistance. It is vain to hope that the negotiations now going on between the cabinets of London and St. Petersburgh will lead to an understanding between the two countries and result in a satisfactory arrangement for the delimitation of the Afghan frontier.

FORCED LABOUR.

THE system of forced labour, or *begar* as it is called, was probably introduced into India by its Mahomedan conquerors. The Mussulmans, who saw nothing wrong or reprehensible in slavery, could not, of course, be expected to realize that persons should be compelled to work against their will. Our enlightened English rulers have recognized *in theory* the right of every subject of Her Majesty of whatever race or creed to absolute freedom of the person. Section 374 of the Indian Penal Code makes the impressment of labour a penal offence. But this law, like so many other good laws enacted by the British Government, is more honored in the

breach than in the observance thereof. In spite of section 374 of the Penal Code, the system of *begar* flourishes more or less in all parts of the country, more particularly in Northern India. Carriage and labour are impressed in broad daylight in the public roads and streets. No official from the Viceroy to the head constable, downward hardly ever marches from one place to another without impressment of labour. Forced labour is resorted to by the very officials who are charged with the administration of criminal justice, and their superiors connive at it. In the cold weather when Commissioners, District and Sub-Divisional officers, and heads of departments go out on tour, the Tehsildar in the Upper Provinces and the Police Inspector in Bengal, are ordered to collect the required number of coolies and carts. The orders must be carried out. The Tehsildar or Police Inspector who fails to do so is considered an inefficient official and becomes a marked man. It is by no means an easy task to induce people to voluntarily place their carriages or personal labour at the disposal of officials while on tour, for they know very well that they will not be paid in full for their services, if they are paid at all. The number of carts, coolies and transport animals required must therefore, be got together by impressment. This is also done while regiments march from one place to another in the course of annual relief. Those who have spent some time in the Mofussil, more especially in the Upper Provinces, know very well the extent to which forced labour is resorted to. The process by which carts, coolies, transport animals, &c. are collected is a very simple one. The district officer orders the Tehsildar or the Police Inspector to get together so many carts, coolies or transport animals. The Tehsildar or Police Inspector passes on the order to his chaprasis or constables. The latter post themselves on public roads and seize what they require without any ceremony. Those who can pay them a *douceur* escape; while the others are forcibly taken to the Tehsili cutcherry or police station, and made to work against their will. They are not often paid for their labour, and the cases in which they receive full payment are few and far between.

The existence of this evil does not in ordinary times attract much public attention; for it may be said to have become an established institution of the land. But on special occasions when the operations are carried on on a very extensive scale the case assumes a different aspect. We know very well how *kahars*, carriages and transport animals were got together for the late Afghan war. Tehsili chaprasis were let loose on helpless and inoffensive communities to *packrao* camels, mules, *garis*, *syces*, drivers, baggage animals, coolies &c. The chaprasis, as a matter of course, seized as many of these as they possibly could for despatch to the front. Poor cultivators or their hired labourers were forcibly taken away from their fields at a time when their absence meant the loss of their crops. The domestic servants of private men who had occasion to go out on their masters' business were seized and taken away. And even people who did not go out for fear of being caught were arrested at their homes and torn from their mothers, wives and children amidst the cries and lamentations of these. The same thing is again being done in the Upper Provinces. Lord Randolph Churchill, during his stay at Benares, saw with his own eyes a number of Bhistees being forcibly taken away from their homes for despatch to the Soudan. His Lordship's English instincts at once led him to interfere in the matter and bring what he had seen to the notice of the Supreme and Local Governments. But the poor and helpless people who are impressed do not always have the good fortune to fall under the eyes of an English nobleman like Lord Randolph Churchill. The Banda correspondent of the *Statesman* writes :—"Panic and consternation rule throughout the district, because the people are being forced to enrol themselves as dooly bearers or as syces in the impending campaigns. The men are, therefore, fleeing from the towns to the Native protected States, and many of the villages are following their example. Others have fled to the hills and are hiding in the ravines and amongst the rocks and *nullahs* with which the district abounds, and where at dead of night their female relatives take food to them." This is the case in many districts in the Upper Provinces. In the Allahabad district there has been a *fracas* between some villagers and the Police owing to the refusal of the former to be impressed into camp service with the troops. We are glad to hear that the Magistrate of Allahabad has taken steps to remove the impression that Government wanted to engage men by force against their will. He has caused this to be proclaimed by beat of tom-tom, and issued a printed circular in the Vernacular, stating the liberal terms on which the different classes of recruits required for the transport service are to be paid. It is most desirable that a similar proclamation should be made in all the districts in the Upper Provinces, in order to allay the alarm that has been created by the high-handed proceedings of the Tehsili and police underlings.

The Anglo-Indian official, while admitting that the law recognizes the right of every subject of Her Majesty of whatever race or position in life to absolute freedom of the person, contends that the forced labour is an indispensable condition of Indian locomotion. He takes it for granted that compulsion may be resorted to whenever carriage or labour or baggage animals are wanted for the public service. He would if he could repeal section 374 of the Indian Penal Code. It is strange how readily Englishmen allow themselves, after a short residence in India, to forget that every rational being has an inherent right of immunity from all interference with his acts or omissions that do not affect others in any way. The chains of the slave drop down as soon as he sets his foot on English soil. But in India many Englishmen do not feel ashamed to defend the system of forced labour which is nothing less than slavery in a modified form. It is an article of their creed that the Native is so stupid or apathetic that he will not work unless he is compelled to do so. Painful experience has taught the poor coolie and cart owner that in the case of his accompanying a European's camp or following a regiment, he will seldom get the *quid pro quo* for his labour, except, perhaps, plenty of abuse and a few blows at the hands of the chaprasis. Many Europeans for whom carts, coolies or baggage animals are engaged do not take the trouble to see that they are paid. The Government has no doubt laid down a reasonable scale of remuneration, but this seldom reaches the poor men who are impressed. If every European officer for whom carts or coolies are engaged made it a point to see that every service rendered to him is fairly remunerated, we should not hear of forced labour being an indispensable condition of Indian locomotion. Should the officer concerned take the trouble of seeing the men adequately paid in his presence, the necessity of resorting to *begar* will soon become a thing of the past. But the misfortune is that he considers it beneath his dignity to do this. He leaves the work to his bearer or chaprasi, and what follows may be easily imagined. We have no hesitation whatever in saying that moderate work, kind treatment, and regular and good pay would at once do away with the necessity of resorting to forced labour. The Indian labourer is as much amenable to the same motives of self-interest and kind treatment as influence the English labourer.

CHEAP TRIBUNALS FOR THE PRESIDENCY TOWNS.

CONSIDERING the costliness of litigation in the Original Side of the High Court, it is a matter of some surprise that the citizens of the metropolis have done nothing in the way of urging the Government to mitigate the hardship of their lot. If litigation be an evil, it is one of those inevitable evils to which every community must submit, if it is to exist as such. If it is the duty of the State to protect the people from external aggression, it is no less its duty to protect them from reciprocal injuries. Indeed, the facility with which a person has his wrongs remedied by the Government under which he lives is one of the principal tests of the efficiency of that Government. The admission to the temple of justice should, therefore, never be impeded by artificial barriers. A tax on persons desirous of obtaining the aid of the law for securing their rights is the most objectionble form of revenue that financial ingenuity could devise. It will not do to say that litigation provokes evil passions which should be checked for the general weal, and that if every allegation of wrong were to be enquired into without subjecting it to some test for ascertaining its earnestness, our courts would be inconveniently crowded by suitors. Provocation of evil passions and the over-crowding of courts may be, and, indeed, are evils. The former, however, as we have already observed, is an inevitable evil, and if restrictions are required for preventing the latter they must be sought in other measures than a heavy institution fee and enormous process fees at every stage of the suit till the injury complained of has been actually righted.

But whatever the considerations that statesmen, in the desperate search after a plea, might urge in defence of measures that make litigation costly, the expenses of litigation in the original side of the Indian High Courts are so great that going to law is positively barred to the poorer classes and is made a luxury for the wealthy inhabitants of the Presidency Towns. Speaking of Calcutta alone in the present connection, although the observations would equally apply to Madras and Bombay, the assertion may be hazarded that, however improved may be the quality of the justice that the High Court administers, at the present scale litigants have to pay too dearly for that justice. What with the institution and process fees and what with the remuneration of law agents and pleaders, justice is already costly enough in the Mofussil. In the High Court, the costs are simply ten times greater than those in the courts of the interior. The question, therefore, that suggests itself to every mind is—ought this state of things to continue even under the altered circumstances of Britain's rule in India?

During the earlier period of the territorial history of the East India Company, the distinction between the Presidency Towns and the Mofussil was not only well-defined, but was even necessary for a variety of reasons. The law, both substantive and adjective, administered within the Presidency Towns differed from that which the Company's courts administered in the interior. Practically it was the English Law modified by such broad principles of justice (as the Courts of Westminister themselves could think of applying under altered circumstances,) that was administered within the limits of the Presidency Towns, while the law that was administered by the Company's Courts was the *lex loci* modified by the Acts of the Imperial Parliament and the Regulations of the local Legislature. Without entering into an explanation of the circumstances that led to, and justified, this double system of judicial administration in British India, it may be said that all justification of this state of things practically came to an end in 1858, when the direct sovereignty of these territories was assumed by the Queen of England. Soon afterwards, as the step towards the abolition of the old distinction between Presidency Town and Moffussil, Act VIII of 1859 intended for and introduced into the Moffussil, was by a rule of the Calcutta High Court made the law of its own procedure, instead of the highly technical and intricate rules derived from the practice of the English Courts that regulated its proceedings. The Indian Penal Code also, that had taken an extraordinarily long time in the hatching was then passed as Act XLV of 1860, for both the Mofussil and the Presidency Towns. Numerous Acts have since been passed in which the distinction between the Mofussil and the Presidency Towns has not been recognised, so that we are within a measurable distance of the entire abolition of the old distinction that has since become useless.

Believing as we do, that there no longer exists any reason for a distinction that might at one time have been necessitated by the circumstances of British dominion in the East, we cannot but view with dissatisfaction the exceptional costliness of litigation in the Presidency Towns. The slightest invasion of a civil right in Calcutta cannot be redressed, but at an expenditure that is totally disproportionate to either the injury

or the redress. Instances are pretty general of persons silently suffering flagrant breaches of their rights without being disposed to set the law in motion. A highly scientific system of procedure requiring trained assistance at every step, that is almost of the nature of a monopoly, and must therefore be purchased at nearly its own price,—a procedure, again, that involves the most tiresome delay, is scarcely the thing that men would like at a time when all the highest powers of the human mind are steadily directed to the annihilation of time and space simultaneously with the annihilation of expenditure. Arguments derived from the quality of the justice obtainable within the limits of the Presidency Towns are scarcely to the point. Is it not the duty of the State to administer the same kind of justice to all its subjects? Is the State to demand, like a dealer in piece-goods or any other article of popular consumption, different prices for different kinds of justice that it may be permitted to have in stock? Is not again the superiority claimed for the justice that is administered within the Presidency Towns a tacit condemnation of the judicial machinery in the Mofussil? No prudent Government, we are sure, would for a moment be disposed to encourage among a miscellaneous population, owing allegiance to it, a belief that the justice it dispenses among them is really unequal.

A cheap judicial machinery, therefore, for the Presidency Towns has become absolutely necessary. Why should we not have special courts, or specially empowered judges of the Small Cause Court, or a number of Munsiff's Courts in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, to try and decide suits, not cognizable by the Small Cause Courts in which the value of the subject matter in dispute does not exceed Rs. 2000? Already, a great reduction in costs of litigation has been effected within the Presidency Towns by the establishment of SmallCouseCourts with a limited pecuniary jurisdiction. As yet the class of suits triable by these courts are confined to claims of money due on bond or other contract, or for *rent*, or for personal property, or for the value of such property, or for damages, when the debt, damage, or demand does not exceed in amount, or value the sum of rupees two thousand, whether on balance of account or otherwise, subject to certain especial limitations. These however, do not, by any means, include all those claims that Civil Courts ordinarily try. We proprose, therefore, that either new Munsiff's Courts be established, vested with jurisdiction subject to the above money limit to try the entire class of suits connected with every kind of interest in land, all questions of succession and inheritance and marriage, of legitimacy, of probate, of administration both testamentary and intestate, of certificates for the collection of debts, of guardianship in lunacy and minority, of legacies, of partinership, of patents, in fact all questions of a civil nature that are now tried by the High Courts—or some of the Judges of the Small Cause Courts be invested with power to do so. That we are not singular in our views will appear from the following observation of Mr. Justice Cunningham on a late occasion. "As long as the fees on justice remain what they are, the law, instead of being the poor man's refuge, must often prove an implement of oppression in wealthy hands . . . And talking of cheapness, let me say that one reform of which the poorer classes stand in need in Calcutta is the creation of some cheaper and humbler tribunal than the High Court for the trial of petty interests in land or houses. As it is, a man cannot sue for a few feet of garden plot or a wretched hut worth a few rupees, except at an altogether disproportionate expense."

Necessary as the reform has become, its accomplishment, however, is not easy. There are many vested interests opposed to it. The barristers and attorneys would not view the measure with favor. The very competence of the Local Legislature to create such tribunals with general civil jurisdiction within the limits of the Presidency Towns may be impeached, although the establishment of the Presidency Small Cause Courts some years ago might be supposed to have paved the way for the proposed reform. The powers of the Supreme Legislature of India, however, have come to be regarded as almost absolute, especially in the matter of passing laws for securing what it may deem as public convenience.

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

THE necessity for constitutional agitation on the part of the people of Bengal first arose some sixty years ago, when the operations of the infamous regulations for the resumption of lakhraj tenures were made to press hard on the people to make up for financial difficulties caused by the Nepalese, the Burmese, and the Bhartpur wars. The plea was the "invalidity" of the tenures, and the "invalidity" was made patent by calling upon the tenure-holders to produce proofs of a kind which no one could produce. Men, who had possession of lands for centuries, generation after generation, and whose right to hold them had been, in most instances, recognized by Government in the *chittas* of the Permanent Settlement records, were, thirty or more years after such recognition, called upon to prove, not the *factum* of the recognition—but to go two, three or more centuries behind it, and prove the validity of the original grant. The result was the most widespread discontent and distress possible, and the leaders of Calcutta Society clubbed together to oppose the action of Government in every constitutional manner they could think of. Babu Dwarkanath Tagore, Babu Prasannakumar Tagore, Raja Radhakanta Deva, Babu Romanath Tagore, Babu Joykissen Mukerji, BabuRadhamadhab Bannerji and other "men of light and leading" of the time were the principal actors in that movement, and they established the "Landholders' Association" of the time. William Cubb Hurry, a merchant, Mr. Stocquelor, then editor of the *Englishman*, Mr. William Parker, of the Civil Service, Mr. W. Theobold, a barrister, and other kind-hearted and noble-minded Englishmen co-operated with the Native leaders, and the labours of the Association resulted in the total exemption from revenue of all lakhraj tenures under 100 biggahs in area, and in a half and half settlement (*nisfi bandobast*) of larger tracts. This was done in the fourth decade of this century, and soon after the Association fell into decay and died. In the middle of the fifth decade, under the fostering care of Mr. George Thompson, an attempt was made to establish a political association on a more catholic basis; but those who joined the movement were mostly the then rising generation who did not enjoy the sympathy of the elders and leaders of society, and Mr. Joe Hume soon snuffed them out by his diatribes, in prose and verse, on what he called the "Chakravarti faction," and the "Foujdariballakhana clique." The debates and discussions in anticipation of the renewal of the Charter of the East India Company next gave an impulse for the formation of a combination of the people to represent their wants and wishes before Parliament. And the British Indian Association was the outcome. It was established in October 1852, under the presidency of Raja Radhakanta Deb and the earnest co-operation of all the leading men of the time. Most of the leaders of the Landholders' Association were then dead, but the few who remained took the warmest interest in the new movement, and the most notable among them were Babus Prasannakumar Tagore, Romanath Tagore and Joykissen Mukerji. Among the new men who came forward to establish the Association were, Ramapersad Roy, Digamber Mitra, Pearychand Mitra, Devendranath Tagore, Ramgopal Ghose, Dakshinaranjun Mukerji and others who have all left their mark on the social and political history of Calcutta. Of these pioneers of political life in Bengal, only two now remain—Babu Debendranath Tagore, long retired from worldly cares to commune with his Maker, and Babu Joykissen Mukerji, the Nestor of the Association, advanced in years, but retaining the utmost vigor of his intellect, enriched by wide and varied experience. May he live long, the last of a glorious band, continuing in his career of doing good to his countrymen and teaching his young colleagues to follow in his footsteps, is our earnest prayer. The first work which devolved on the Association was to watch the proceedings of Parliament, and to prepare an elaborate representation of the numerous wants and requirements of the country. An agency was also established in England for the dissemination of correct information about Indian matters among the members of Parliament. The feeling at the time was strong that a duly qualified native gentleman should be deputed to England to advocate the cause of the natives before the British public, and a subscription was opened to promote that object; but it fell through, as did two subsequent attempts of the kind, owing principally to religious and social difficulties. The times selected were too early for success in an undertaking of this kind. However, the labours of the Association in Bengal were unintermitting, and conducted with unflinching ardour and single-minded devotion to the welfare of the people. No compromise was in any case thought of, and yet the claims of the people were urged invariably with singular moderation and wisdom. The various letters, reports, petitions, memorials and protests prepared and published by it, were models of their kind, and extorted admiration from even the enemies of the Association. The Government at once recognised the ability, talent, and practical knowledge which the Association brought to bear upon the different questions which it took up, and freely consulted it on all occasions. In order to avoid schisms and differences of opinion calculated to disturb the harmony of the members in a community of different creeds and castes, the Association very judiciously avoided all questions relating to religious beliefs and social customs; but in regard to all matters of Government action it took a prominent part. As the representative of the people on the one hand, and the interpretor between the governors and the governed on the other,no question has arisen since 1852 in which it has not taken a prominent part, and materially influenced the course of events. Comprising within its memberhood the highest wealth, influence and intelligence of the native race, and the representatives of every leading family in Calcutta, it has always given voice to the feeling of the nation, and happily, in this respect, our Muhammadan fellow subjects, at least such of them as take any interest in political action, have co-operated with it. At one time it was in contemplation to invite the co-operation of the non-official European community; but, knowing how Government was likely to misinterpret its motives and to set down to European fractious spirit the action of the people who, it was apprehended, would be mere tools or puppets in the hands of enterprising foreigners, the idea was judiciously abandoned. The resolve was that whatever the Association did should be, as far as possible, done *by* the natives and *for* the natives, and it has been faithfully carried out. One remarkable trait in the spirit of the Association is the total absence of race antagonism. At times it has had the greatest provocations but it has so governed its action as never to offend any class of the community. It has advocated the interest of the people it represents,but it has never urged any thing to injure the just rights of others. Of its representative character one remarkable evidence is that since 1863 almost all the independent native members appointed for the Bengal Legislative Council have been taken from its ranks. Of late an attempt has been made in certain quarters to travel out of the circle of the Association, but without avail. At any rate the most distinguished native names on the rolls of the Council are those of the leading members of the Association. Not to refer to the living, to avoid invidious comparisons, among the dead we may cite the names of Prasannakumar Tagore, Ramanath Tagore, Digamber Mitra, Ramgopal Ghose, Ramapersad Roy, Pearychand Mitra, Amir Ali, and Kristodas Pal as those who would have done honor to any representative body in any part of the civilized world. They did manfully uphold the credit of the intellectual and business capacity of the nation. It may not be amiss to note that on two successive occasions the Supreme Government

has gone out of its routine to invite the Association to nominate members for the Legislative Council of India. Captious, evil-minded people have at times said that the scope of the Association is sectional; that it watches the interests of the zemindar, and not of the ryot; but the charge is utterly unfounded, if not positively malicious. The Association includes all classes of the community, and, in practice, it has respected its comprehensive character in a thoroughly catholic spirit. Nay, its action has been guided more with a view to help the poor—to help those who cannot help themselves—than to help the rich. So scrupulous has the Association been in this respect that, to avoid the least possible taint of sectionalism in a question in which the interests of the zemindars and the ryots are apparently to a certain extent antagonistic, it avoided taking upon itself the entire action of opposing the Bengal Tenancy Bill, and appointed a special Zemindari Committee for the purpose. Not that the true interest of the zemindar and the ryot is other than identical, as regards the leading principles of the Act, and the numerous meetings or protests of the ryots and the tenure-holders during the last six months attest this fully, as also the anxiety expressed by the zemindars in their memorials for the well-being of the ryots; but it was well to prevent the possibility of misconception and to preserve the catholic character of the Association, by delegating even apparent sectional work to a separate Committee. Of the work done by the Association during the last five and thirty years it is not our intention to take any note here. During the past year, it appears from the Annual Report which we publish in a supplement, it took up the Puri Lodging House Bill, the Tuccavi Advances Bill, the Negotiable Instruments Bill, the Bengal Tenancy Bill, the Telegraph Bill, and the Local Self-Government Bill, regarding most of which it submitted elaborate and judicious suggestions for the consideration of Government. Regarding many miscellaneous subjects such as the Octroi for Calcutta, Value-Payable Parcels from Europe, Municipal Elections, Excise Commission, and Marriage Reform, it also delivered opinions which were perfectly co sonant with the wants, wishes and feelings of the great bulk of the Hindu community. Abstracts of these views are given in the Report, and we shall not indulge in a further recnauffage. The Association deserves well of the people, and we are glad to notice that it is so warmly supported by those who have the greatest stake in the country, and long to promote the amelioration of their race.

THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN DIFFICULTY.

The crisis is not yet over. The news of the week is scanty and indeterminate. On Monday, the Simla Correspondent of the *Englishman* telegraphed that "in high quarters" the impression was that the issue of the negotiations passing between London and St. Petersburg "can only be war;" but the *Times of India's* correspondent with the Boundary Commission announced that, according to Turkoman report, "Generals Komaroff and Alikhanoff were re-called after the recent fight at Panjdeh," and that "the Russians express contrition for the attack, which was contrary to the Emperor's orders." He added the significant fact that "Sir Peter Lumsden's party was to some extent involved in the disaster, and lost 24 men, 87 mules, and some camels;" but this has not since been verified. On Tuesday the news was that at St. Petersburg the belief, "founded on good authority," was that "war with England was considered inevitable," and that on April 27 "the Czar was to leave for Muscow, where an Imperial manifesto would be issued." This came from Reuter's agency at St. Petersburg. The only news on Wednesday was that the announcement of the *Times* that the British Government proposed that the Panjdeh affair should be referred to arbitration meant that "the question whether General Komaroff or the Afghans violated the engagement not to advance troops, and not the subject of the future possession of Panjdeh." On Thursday came the startling news of the Russians having advanced and taken Maruchack; but this has not only not been since confirmed, but contradicted by Lord E. Fitzmaurice who announced in the Commons on that day that "according to the latest intelligence the Russians had not advanced beyond Panjdeh." Lord Granville made the same statement in the House of Lords. Matters did not, however, seem to be mending, and the news of Friday was that "the *Times*, in a leading article, announces that the British proposal to the Russian Government is that an enquiry be instituted into the Panjdeh affair; and this is coupled with an offer of the delimitation of a frontier according to the Russian sense, subject, however, to the indispensable condition that Russia gives by treaty a clear and unconditional guarantee that she will not, under any circumstances, attempt to seize Herat." No Englishman could have read this without a pang, for it means that the Panjdeh slap would be pocketed if Herat was let alone. As Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the people of this country felt equally hurt. Saturday morning was practically a blank, but in the evening several messages came in, and were published yesterday morning. One of these, to the *Times of India* from London, says "that the Government are waiting a reply to their proposal to Russia to submit the Panjdeh affair to arbitration" and that in the event of a refusal, "diplomatic relations will be broken off." Another, to the *Bombay Gazette*, says "that the news from Russia continues to be warlike, and that the Russian press continues to attack England." The *Moscow Gazette* improves the occasion by denouncing the British occupation of Port Hamilton as "a menace to Russia," and urging "Government to demand its evacuation," adding that "should England refuse, Russia should make reprisals by seizing and retaining Herat." The latest news, however, was that "the prospects of a peaceful settlment of the Anglo-Russian difficulty have improved. The *Daily News* publishes a paragraph stating that the British Government has received semi-official information that the Czar is earnestly desirous of peace, and is willing to accept the proposed arbitration regarding the question whether the covenant of the 17th of March had been misconstrued by either side. It is reported that the King of Denmark will be the arbitrator between the two contending parties." All this is uncertain enough. It is obvious that Russia's peaceful professions are insincere, and made solely to gain time for making the needful preparations for war. She has been long since making her arrangements, but her troops are not quite close enough for a spring on Herat, and to meet all subsequent contingencies. The aim is to get Turkey to side with Russia, and the latest intelligence is that the Porte is disposed to remain in armed neutrality, ready to defend the Bosphorus, but not to rush into war, so long as war can be avoided. France, too, has accepted a surrender from England on the *Bosphore Egyptien* question, and is satisfied with the apology of the Khedive and the reopening of the miserable press which was made the cause of dispute, and there is no present likelihood of her joining Russia in a vain enterprise against England, and that too, so soon after her failure in China. Of course, it would be vain to pry into possible distant future complications when the scene is so frequently changing; but at present, if the plucky remark of Mr. Gladstone that England must see that "right is done to the Afghans" is to be upheld, war and nothing but war can effect it. Assuming for the sake of argument that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg is for peace, can it afford to imperil its prestige in Central Asia by receding from Panjdeh? Her existence there depends upon her prestige, situated as she is amidst wild, warlike freebooters, who have only been lately brought under her sway, and are kept quiet only under the iron hands of power and prestige. Let the prestige be gone, and the power loses half its weight; she cannot, therefore, think of knuckling under. Peace she may accept if it be quite in keeping with her arrogance and bumptiousness; but retirement from Panjdeh for the sake of arbitration cannot be consistent with her position. On the other hand, England cannot uphold her determination to see "justice done to the Afghans" without insisting upon Russia's receding, at least for the present, from Panjdeh. It is in some quarters feared that the determination cannot be upheld, for England is not prepared for a duel with Russia. This, however, we cannot believe. However numerous the army of Russia, her empire is vast and there is ample occupation for her soldiers without waging a mighty war at the extreme verge from her centre; while England has India and her resources quite at hand, and native legions led by English officers can be brought to the frontiers of Afghanistan much more readily, and man for man they will not be a whit inferior to the Muscovite, the Caucasian and the Turkoman troops which Russia can bring forward. The attack then in the Black and the Baltic seas will touch Russia to the quick, and that is a consideration, which she cannot overlook; and these circumstances, we are of opinion, will enable England to enter the fray without any apprehension of future evil consequences. War is an evil—a great evil—and should be avoided as much as possible; but there are circumstances which make war preferable to peace, and they are just that now before us, and we strongly believe that the most prudent considerations suggest an immediate war before Russia is fully prepared for the fray.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

The following gentlemen have been appointed office-bearers of the British Indian Association for the current year. Babu Durgacharn Law C.I.E., President; Maharaja Narendrakrishna, Raja Harendrakrishna, Raja Satyanand Ghosal, and the Maharaja of Hatwa Vice-Presidents, and the Hon'ble Babu Pearymohun Mookerjea, Honorary Secretary.

Lord Randolph Churchill, on his return to England from his Indian tour, was interviewed by a representative of the Press, who obtained from His Lordship an account of his travels in this country. His Lordship was absent from England 125 days and found that he had travelled no less than 22,800 miles, showing how much could be accomplished in the present day within a very short period. His Lordship is of opinion that people in England have very little idea of the extraordinary attractiveness of Indian travel, and the great importance of the interests involved. It is now a matter of intense surprise to him that a far larger number of British politicians do not visit the Indian Empire, all political problems in India being solved on such an enormous scale that a study of them on the spot cannot but open the minds and enlarge the ideas of visitors. His Lordship stayed in Calcutta for about a week, and made the acquaintance of our leading men. "Here, as in the other large towns," he says, "I found the intelligent native to be equal to any Europeans in information, extent of reading, and public spirit." When asked which of the Indian cities had struck him as most characteristic, he replied that he thought "Hyderabad was the most thoroughly Indian in all its features and surroundings," adding that many of the large towns in the north-west were getting more and more Europeanised. We hope His Lordship will write a detailed account of his extended tour in India, and give us his impressions of the country. Though his tour in India was short and hurried, still as he made most of the opportunities he had for acquiring information, we are sure his opinions on the present condition, progress and future prospects of India will be very valuable, and enlighten British statesmen in regard to many questions of vital importance to the country.

It has been settled with regard to the Archæological Survey of India, that the whole country will be divided into five divisions. Bengal Bombay, Madras, North-Western Provinces nad Oudh and Punjab, each will have its own archæologist. On the retirement of General Cunningham, the present Director of Archæological Survey, Mr. Burgess will be the chief of the Department, and the other four officers will have to submit their reports through him. We are afraid such an arrangement will not be to the benefit of archæological researches in the country. Dr. Burgess' knowledge of the Archæological re-

mains of India is very imperfect, and very little importance is attached by archæologists to his opinions. We do not see, therefore, in what way Dr. Burgess' revision of the provincial reports will be of any advantage to the Department. We quite agree with the *Englishman* that "an officer who is entrusted with the important duties of archæologist for such provinces as Bengal, the North-West Provinces, and the Panjab, might surely be entrusted with the duty of forwarding his report direct to the Local Government."

A DISTINGUISHED orientalist of England, writing to Babu Protapa Chandra Roy of this city, the enterprising publisher of the *Mahabharata*, says,—"It may perhaps amuse you to learn that in the recently published German translation of 'India, what can it teach us?' the passages in praise of Hindu truthfulness have, *with the author's sanction*, been suppressed. What will his bosom-friend Dr. Rajendralala Mitra say to this?" Why Dr. Mitra, when he sees the work thus mutilated, will simply say that the learned Professor knows the art of being all things to all men at the same time. While over-flowing with pro-Aryan sympathies in his letters to Hindu correspondents, even to the extent of indulging a vain regret for his not having been born a Brahman, the eminent *savant* is adroit enough to suppress what evidently did not take in his adopted country. An additional incentive to such suppression might have been found in the little probability of the Professor's Hindu friends reading his work in German, especially after they had once read it in English. As for the Bengalis at large, no harm was done to them by the diatribes of Macaulay, who, after extenuating the forgery of Clive and the judicial murder of Hastings, poured forth the vials of his wrath against the natives for their want of veracity; no good came to them through the Professor's vindication of their truthfulness; and no evil is likely to result to them from the suppression of that vindication. They will remain identically the same what they are. And for us it is not necessary to enquire what inference should be drawn from the suppression about the Professor's courage of his opinions.

A LADY correspondent, writing from London to an Indian friend, says,—"I wish you could see our reading room at the British Museum. It is a most delightful room for readers. I have spent many precious hours there. It is a lofty hall with a large glass dome, and under this dome are galleries with thousands of books. Below you see the busy hive of readers and writers, and the attendants noiselessly waiting on them, bringing the numerous books that are asked for. Tickets with the name, number, and author, also the number of the reader's seat, and date of the month, are dropped into a basket, and soon after the books are brought. Each reader has pens, ink, blotter, paper-knife—and a comfortable chair with a hassock provided for him. Yes, these reading rooms are availed of by all classes of readers." We have a few similar institutions in India, but they are only unsuccessful imitations of their great prototypes inEngland and America. Not that we have no funds to purchase books, or to provide comfort and convenience, but the fact is, as yet the reading public in India is small.

THE Senate of the Madras University has resolved to create a new Degree of Licenciates in teaching. No person shall be admitted to the examination without a certificate of having attended a six months' session at a Normal Institution and of having thereafter practised his profession for at least six months; but by special order of the Senate, exemption from the production of such certificates may be granted, in the case of persons who have, for not less than 2½ years, been continuously on the regular teaching staff of a High School or College. The University of Calcutta, may, it seems to us, follow the example of the Sister University with advantage, as the training in the Normal Schools here, cannot be said to meet the requirements of the case satisfactorily. The Normal Schools training ought to be supplemented by a further public examination, in order to secure good and efficient teachers. Of course the law will not admit of the use of the term "degree," nor would we wish it, but certificates may supply its place.

HOW INTENSELY keen and active is the sympathy of the natives with their rulers in the present crisis will be seen from the proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Madras Hindu Fraternal Association held, "to invoke the blessings of the Almighty to avert the calamities of war," Mr. T. Vararda Row B.A. B.L. delivered a sermon, in which he dwelt on the evils of the despotic system of Government of Russia, and the liberty, peace, and happiness, and the safety to life and property that the people of India enjoy under British rule.

THE INHABITANTS of Meerut, Gouhati, Patna Shibpore, and various other places in Bengal and upper India, have sent up numerously and influentially signed memorials to the Viceroy, praying to be enlisted as volunteers. At Madras, where Major Branson's action in enlisting natives in the ranks of the Artillery volunteers, has been disallowed by the Government, efforts are being made to obtain sanction for the formation of separate Volunteer Corps. The decision of the Madras Government and the utterances of His Excellency the Viceroy in reply to the memorial of the Lahore Indian Association, do not augur well for the satisfactory termination of the movement.

THE *Englishman*, which used to hold rather strong opinions regarding the Kidderpore Wet Docks, has evidently been brought to bay by his correspondent, Mr. Smallwood, who pertinently points out that the Docks being full and the water being higher than the surrounding country, it will engender, by percolating the soil, a low class of fever such as has decimated the districts of Burdwan, Nuddea &c., and which owes its existence to the railway *bunds* that prevent the natural flow of water. That it is not an impossibility even where the sheets of stagnant water are comparatively on a small scale, is illustrated by the fact that the tanks of the Calcutta water-works at Fulta have rendered the land so unhealthy, as to engender an epidemic fever. As Mr. Smallwood observes it is perfectly idle to speculate upon the possibility of instantly converting Jack and Dingi Wallah, who will inhabit the surface of this big tank, into devoted disciples of the new Health Society. We may cite another example. The Ganges and the Jumna Canals produced such extensive dampness that some of the healthiest tracts in the North-West became malarious and the Committee appointed under the presidency of Colonel Baker condemned the Canals as serious causes of malaria. The expanse of a canal is nothing compared to that of large Docks and the evils from the Docks must be proportionetely greater. We trust the Commission appointed to investigate the sanitary aspects of the proposed scheme will not come to a conclusion without carefully examining the question in all its important bearings.

WE HAVE received from the Press Commissioner's Office the following:

Speaking generally, the prospects of the wheat crop as previously reported remained unchanged up to the end of March.

Complete statistics for the Punjab are not yet available, the wheat harvest of that province being as explained in the last summary later in ripening than that of other parts of India, but the information received shows that, though in some districts the yield is expected to be below, in others it is likely to be above the average, and that, on the whole, the wheat outturn of the province will be quite up to that of previous years.

In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the very favourable character of the weather during March has led to an improvement in the estimated outturn. The area under wheat is said to be 5,284,400 acres, which is in excess of the normal wheat area by 318, 721 acres. Of this area about 1.06 per cent. is expected to bear a full average crop. A crop estimated at 90 per cent. of an average crop is expected on about 12 per cent. of the area—an 84 per cent. crop on about 53 per cent. of the area, a three quarters crop on about 32.9 per cent. and a 66 per cent. crop on the remainder. Taking the Provinces as a whole, the outturn is expected to be about 82 per cent. of an average crop, and the total outturn anticipated is 2,040,000 tons. The stocks in hand are supposed to amount to about 60,000 tons.

In the Central Provinces, nowithstanding injury done by rust in the northern districts. the prospects of the crop are still excellent. The area said to be under wheat (370,000 acres) is less than the reputed normal wheat area by about 200,000 acres, but the outturn is expected to be 817,857 tons or 14, 286 tons above the average. The export during March was about 14,282 tons, but that for the first week in April amounted to 5,357 tons.

In the Bombay Presidency and in the Berar, prospects remained unchanged at the date of the report.

No fresh information has been received from any of the Native States.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the undermentioned publications:

1. Selections from the Records of the Government of India, Foreign Department, 1883 84.
2. Do. Do. of the Government of India, Home Dept., 1883.
3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India, 1884.
4. Report on the Administration of Podukotah for 1883-84.
5. The Bengal Tenancy Act, No. VIII of 1885.
6. The fourth Annual Report of the Furridpore Suridh Sabha.
7. Pakshik Somalochak.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN THE WASTING DISEASES OF CHILDREN.—Dr. G. Saunders, C. B., late Deputy-Inspector-General Army Hospitals, Suprintendent London Medical Mission, writes:—"I have used Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil extensively among the sick poor of St. Giles's and consider it a valuable remedy, especially in the wasting Diseases of Children." Dr. Stavely King, Physician to the Metropolitan Free Hospital, writes:—"I can very conscientiously testify to the superior qualities of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil. I have employed it with great advantage in cases of Mesenteric and Pulmonary Tubercle, and in the Atrophic Diseases of Children." Dr. R. C. Croft, author of "Handbook for the Nursery," writes:—"I have tried Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, and find that it contains all the properties which render the Oil so efficacious. I find, moreover, that many patients prefer it to the Pale Oils, and are able to retain it more comfortably. It is almost a specific in many of the Diseases peculiar to Infancy and Childhood,and I have seen marked benefit produced by its use." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn, London.

LOCAL.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

Baboo JODOOLAL MULLICK regretted that he should have to differ from his friend, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, in congratulating the Association on the invitation from the Government to supply a member to its Legislative Council. However painful it might be, differences of opinion must arise on such points. In his opinion the Association should have refused to appoint a representative member from their number, submitting that a single member would always be a standing minority against 19 others to watch the interest of the Government; he was powerless, though he may cry never so loudly.

Baboo NAFAR CHUNDER PAL CHOWDRY called attention to the zemindary dak cess, stating that the present elaborate postal system did not call for such an exaction at this late date, and he would like to see the Association ventilate the subject, and bring it to the notice of the Goverdment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Mofussil Subscriptions.	R.	As.	P.
H. H. The Maharaja of Benares	13	4	0
S. S. Dey, Lucknow	6	10	0
G. B. Dey Esq., Lucknow	6	10	0
A. Mackie Esq., Ranchee	13	4	0
L. B. Bose Esq., Lucknow	4	0	0
B. C. Chatterjee Esq., Berhampore, Ganjam	6	10	0
P. C. Mookerjee Esq., Lucknow	4	0	0
C. E. Savaille Esq., Lucknow	13	4	0
Moulvie Ali Naje, Bedhuna	10	0	0
Balmookund Dance, Etwah	4	6	0
Babu Kedaressar Roy, Munshegunge	6	10	0
,, Saroda Prosad Banarjee, Orai	5	0	0
,, Sosee Voosun Mukerjee, Benares	13	4	0
,, Bhogobutty Churun Mukerjee, Cuttack	13	4	0
,, Gangadhur Gossain, Dhurbhanga	13	4	0
,, Chunder Kumar Bose, Lowser	10	0	0
,, Bemolanund Mookerjee, Berhampore	6	4	0
,, Mohendra Nath Ghose, Lucknow	6	10	0
,, Chunder Nath Bose, Lucknow	6	10	0
,, Apurva Krishna Mitter, Dumka	4	8	0
,, Bhoobone Mohun Roy, Lucknow	13	4	0
,, Sreeram Chatterjee, Saknara	6	10	0
,, Jodunath Sanyal, Lucknow	4	0	0
,, Gokool Persad, Jhansi	6	10	0
,, Bhugwan Das, Baijulpore	6	10	0
,, Gopal Chunder Sen, Burdwan	10	0	0
,, Mohiny Mohun Chuckerbutty, Tumlook	13	4	0
,, Jogendra Nath Mookerjee, Doomka	6	10	0
,, Monoharylal Shome, Chinsura	2	0	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette—*April 29th* 1885.

General—14th April—Baboo Sant Prasad, Dy Magte and Dy Colr, Mazufferpore, is transfd to Bhagulpore, and apptd to have charge of the Banka sub-divn of that dist, during the absence, on leave, of Boboo Makunda Deb Mookerjee.

Munshi Nundjee, Tempy Dy Magte and Dy Colr, on special Duty in Singbhoom, is transfd to Lohardugga, and posted to the sudder station of that dist.

15th April—Baboo Bhoobun Mohun Soor, Tempy Sub-Dy Collr, on relief work, Burdwan, is transfd to Oolooberiah, Howrah, from date on which he joined his apptmt.

Babu Komul Narain Chuckerbutty, Tempy Sub-dy Collr, Hooghly, is transfd to the dist of Burdwan for employment on relief work, from date on which he joined his apptmt.

Baboo Kedar Nath Dutt, Dy Magte and Dy Colr, Serampore, Hooghly, is allowed leave for one month and fifteen days, from 7th prox, or subsequent date.

Kumar Ramendra Krishna, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr Hooghly, is transfd temply to Serampore, in that dist, during the absence, on leave, of Baboo Kedar Nath Dutt.

16th April—Moulvie Saed Sakhawat Hossein, Offig Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Burdwan, is transfd to Mongbyr, and posted to the sudder station of that dist.

17th April—The services of Mr R S T MacEwen second Judge of the Court of Small Causes Calcutta, on furlough, are placed temply at the disposal of the Govt of India in the Home Dept.

17th April—The Lieut-Govr accepts the resignation tendered by Mr H M King of his apptmt as a Lieut in the Northern Bengal Volr Rifle Corps.

20th April,—Baboo Parbutty Churn Roy, Depy Magte and Dy Collr, 24-Purgunnahs, is transfd to the sudder station of the dist of Darjeeling.

22nd April—BabooHurry MohunSen, Depy Magte and Depy Collor, Kurigram, Rungpur, on leave, is transfd to Dacca, and is poted to the sudder station of that dist, from date on which he jointed his apptmt.

Mr H H Birch, Offg Depy Magte and Depy Collr, Begoserai, Monghyr, is transfd to the sudder station of that dist.

Baboo Hem Chunder Kerr, Depy Magte Depy and Collr, 24-Pregunnahs, is allowed leave for thirty-five days from 26th inst, or subsequent date.

Baboo Suresh Chunder Dass, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Contai, Midnapur, on leave, is transfd temply to the 24-Pergunnahs, and posted to the sudder station of that dist.

Baboo Ram Narain Prasad is apptd to act as Sub-Dy, Collr of Madhubani, in Durbhunga, during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Bepin Behary Pramanick,

27th April—Baboo Bhagwan Chundra Bose, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Pubna, is allowed leave for two months and three days, from 1st inst, or other date.

Lieut-Col W B Hudson, Comdt of the "Behar Light Horse," is allowed leave of absence for six months from such date as he may avail himself of it.

Police.—17th April—Mr E St George Kaye, Asst Supdt of Police, in charge City Patna, is allowed leave on pte affairs for six months, from 1st proximo. or subsequent date.

22nd April—The Lieute-Govr appts Babu Harischandra Rai to be Asst Supdt of the Survey of Ghatwali and other service tenures in the dist of Bankoorah.

25th April—Mr. P A Sandilands, Asst Supdt of Police in charge of the dist police, Maldah, is transferred to Tipperah, and apptd to have charge of the dist police, of that dist.

Mr H V H Roberts, Dist Supdt of Police, Tipperah, is transferred to Maldah.

Mr. H Munro, Dist Supdt of Police, fifth grade, Bengal, reported his departure from India on furlough on 15th April.

Mr J Master, Dist Supdt of Police, reported his departure from India, on leave, on 15th inst.

Mr G R K Meares, Dist Supdt of Police reported his departure from India, on furlough, on 13th inst.

27th April—Lieute-Col R M Skinner, Dist Supdt of Police, Sarun, is transferred to Darjeeling.

Mr R F H Pughe, Dist Supdt of Police Darjeeling, is transferred to Sarun.

Registration—16th April—Babu Saratchunder Chatterjee, Offg Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Dinagepore, is appointed to be also Sub-Registrar of Dinagepore, from 23rd March, vice Babu Umachurn Banerjee, retired.

Babu Hurry Chaitanyo Ghose, Offg Second Inspr of Registration Offices is appointed to act as First Inspr of Registration Offices, during the absence, on leave, of Mr J F Harrison.

Education—17th April—The order of the 26th ult, published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 25th idem, granting six months' furlough to Mr W T Webb, Professor, Presidency College, from 23rd June next, is cancelled.

14th April—Munshi Nundjee, Tempy Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Lohardugga is vested with the powers of a Magte of the first class.

15th April—Babu Pareshnath Chatterjee, BC, is appt to act as a Munsif in the dist of Midnapore, to be ordinarily stationed at Nemal, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Sarat Kumar Ghosal.

22nd April—Babu Abhayacharan Mitter, MA, Teacher of Science in the Calcutta Normal School, acted as Hd Master of that school and in class II of the Bengal Sub-Educational Service from 1st to 18thJany 1885.

Opium—22nd April—Mr R W Blair, Asst Sub-Depy Opium Agent, Sarsa, acted as Sub-Depy Opium Agent of Allahabad from 12th May to 12th August 1885.

Port Trust—1st April—The Hon'ble H J Reynolds is reapptd to be a Commissioner for making improvements in the Port of Calcutta, from 26th inst.

The Hon'ble Mr Reynolds is also reappointed to be a Chairman of the Commissioners, with effect from the date above mentioned.

Road Cess—18th April—The following gentlemen are reapptd to be members of the Mymensingh District Road Committee :—

Maharaja Rajkrishna Sinha and Raja Surjakantha Acharja Choudry.

The following gentlemen are apptd to be members of the same Committee :—

Babus Keshubchandra Acharja Chowdry, Dharanikanth Lahiri Chowdry, Harachandra Chowdry, Radha Ballabh Bhowdry, and Kishorimohun Chowdry.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

Wanted a Clerk and Draftsman for the District Engineer's Office, Dacca, on a salary of Rs. 35 per month. Applications with copies of testimonials together with a specimen of drawing, will be received by the undersigned on or before the 15th proximo.

Shoshe Bhoosun Mitra, B. C. E.
Dated Dacca, 29th April 1885. } District Engineer, *Dacca.*

BENGAL BONDED WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATION.

In conformity with Section 5 of Act V of 1854 a General Meeting of Proprietors will be held on Wednesday the 13th instant, at noon for the inspection of accounts for the half-year ended 30th April last, the declaration of a dividend, the election of Directors in the room of the Hon'ble Doorga Churn Law and Mr. W. I. M. Mc. Caw who go out by rotation but offer themselves for re-election, the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. J. F. Rutherfoord as the Secretary from 1st March last in the place of Mr. H. W. I. Wood, who has retired from the service, and the transaction of any other business that may be brought forward.

Calcutta, 4th May 1885. } J. F. Rutherfoord, *Secretary.*

NOTICE.

Draftsman

Wanted for the Office of the Executive Engineer, Pooree Division, a thoroughly qualified Draftsman and Estimator. Salary Rs. 50, apply with copies of testimonials which will not be returned to

Cuttack, 4th May 1885. } A C. Campbell Rogers, Executive Engineer, Pooree Division, Cuttack.

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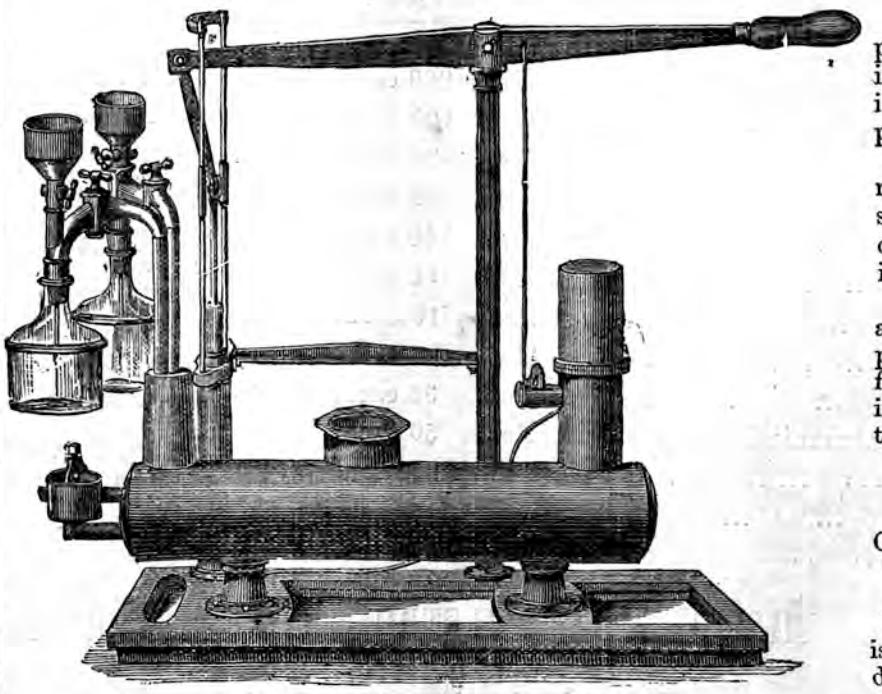

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1.—All that two storied brick-built tenanted house situate at and being No. 90 Sobhabazar Street in the town of Calcutta containing by estimation 8 cattahs 4 chittacks and 9 square-feet of land and bounded on the North Golabari and land of Fuckeer Chand Shaw, on the east by the house of Gireedhur Pramanick and a lane leading to Koomartolee, on the south by the Sobhabazar Street, and on the west by premises or Thakoorbatee of Gireedhur Shaw and Boido Nauth Shaw.

2.—All that undivided one-fourth part or share of and in the tenanted land No. 118 Cotton Street in Calcutta aforesaid, containing by estimation 1 cattah 19 square-feet be the same a little more or less and bounded on the north and east by the Godowns of Gooroo Churn Sen, on the south by the Cotton Street and on the west by the house of Ramlall Paul.

3.—All that undivided one-fourth part or share of and in the tenantedland No. 87/88 Cotton Street, in Calcutta aforesaid, containing by estimation 9 chittacks and 9 sqare-feet, be the same a little more or less and bounded on the north by the said Cotton Street, on the east by the tenanted house of Doyal Paul, on the south by the house of Tarra Churn Sing and on the west by the tenanted house of Narain Sing.

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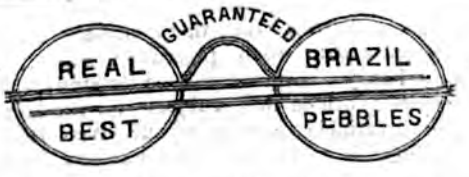

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LOCAL.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Thirty-third Annual General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held in the Hall of the Association on Wednesday the 29th April 1885, at 4-30 p. m.

Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur, President, in the chair.

The following gentlemen were present at the meeting:—

Babus Doorga Churn Law, Rajcoomar Surbadhikari, Prasad Das Dutt, Jogendro Chunder Ghose, Bijoy Kissen Mookerjee, Joykissen Mookerjee, Koonjolal Bannerjee, Hurrimohun Bose, Nawab Amir Mahamad Ali, Hon. P. M. Mookerjee, Babus Dwarkanath Chuckerbutty, Juggut Chunder Rai Chowdry, Sita Nath Roy, Srinath Chunder, Joogul Kishore, Srish Chunder Bose, Noffur Chunder Pal Chowdry, Jodulal Mullick, Boikuntnath Bose, Koomar Dinendro Narain Ray, Colonel Rono Jung, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, Mr. H. M. Rustomji, Koomar Dabendro Narain Rai, Babus Bidu Bhusan Rai, agent of Babu Chuckunlal Ray, Romanath Ghosh, Nundo Lal Gossami, Kissorilal Gossami, Grish Chunder Ghose, Pran Nath Suraswati, Shama Churn Lahori.

The Secretary, the Hon. Peary Mohun Mookerjee, opened the Meeting by briefly referring to the different subjects which had engaged the attention of the Association during the past year, and which were detailed at length in the printed report, and by laying on the table a statement of accounts for the same period.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

LEGISLATION.

ALMOST at the beginning of the year the Committee addressed the Government of Bengal on the subject of the Estates Partition Bill. It will be remembered that the Bill as originally framed prohibited the formation by partition of estates the revenue liability of which should be equal to or less than ten rupees. Subsequently the Select Committee recast the Bill and excluded from the benefits of fiscal partition all estates the revenue liability of which did not exceed twenty rupees, at the same time it interdicted the formation of infinitesimally small estates, for not more than one rupee liable to be borne on the Revenue Rolls.

The Committee in their letter to Government pointed out this change in the principle of the Bill and requested both republication and translation into the vernacular languages to elicit public opinion.

The Committee were, however, glad to observe that the Bill was subsequently withdrawn.

PETITION TO EXEMPT FROM THE OPERATION OF THE POOREE LODGING HOUSE ACT IN THE TOWN OF GYA.—A Bill was introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council to amend the Pooree Lodging House Act. The report of the Select Committee on this Bill was presented in the latter part of January last. A petition numerously and influentially signed by Hindu inhabitants throughout India was received by the Committee and forwarded to Government. The petitioners prayed that the Lodging Houses kept by the Gyalies in the Town of Gya should be exempted from the operation of the Act. The petition was however rejected and the Bill passed into law in due course.

THE ACT FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NORTHERN INDIA TUKKAVI ADVANCES ACT TO THE BENGAL PROVINCES.—In February, the Committee were asked to submit their opinions with regard to a Bill to extend to Bengal the provisions of Act X of 1879 of the India Council (The Northern India Takkavi Advances Act) introduced into the Vice-regal Council by the Hon'ble Sir Steuart Bayley.

In their reply they pointed out that loans had been advanced by Government during seasons of distress. And that no difficulty had hitherto been experienced, so far as the Committee were aware, in the recovery of such loans; the Bill however proposed to substitute the state creditor for the indigenous banks of the country with a view to finance projects for agricultural improvements and afford relief to the agricultural population; if such was the object of Government, that object was not likely to succeed by passing the Bill into law; that the contemplated provision for summary sale of ryatti tenures for recovery of Government advances under a procedure analogous to that which was adopted for the recovery of revenue was calculated to lessen the value of the zemindar's security for the realization of rent. The Committee therefore were not prepared to recommend the adoption of the principles of the Bill as the basis of Legislation.

The Committee are happy to observe that although the Bill was placed on the Statute Book as Act XIX of 1883 many of their suggestions have been adopted by the Legislature. The maximum period during which the loan is made ordinarily repayable by the Act has been fixed at thirty-five years, and may exceed that period subject to the rules to be framed by the Local and the Supreme Governments. Proceedings for the recovery of loans made under the Act have been declared not to affect any interest in the land sold existing at the time of sale.

THE ACT TO AMEND THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS ACT OF 1877.—The Government of Bengal requested the Association to give their opinion on the Negotiable Instruments Act. The Committee having found nothing objectionable in the Bill informed the Government in reply that they had no suggestions to offer on the subject.

THE OCTROI COMMITTEE.—The next question which engaged the attention of the Committee of the Association was the proposal for the introduction of Octroi duty into the Town of Calcutta. Seeing that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor was unwilling as stated in his letter of 28th June last, to take any steps for the establishment of the Octroi unless it were clearly shewn that this could be done without causing undue harrassment to the trade and commerce of the town they took objection to the constitution of the Committee to which the question of the feasibility of the scheme for the introduction of the said duty was referred. The Committee pointed out that although the Government had made a wise selection of members yet there was none in the Committee, who could fitly represent the interests of native merchants and traders. The Committee showed that although members from the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades' Association, were competent to suggest means for preventing harrassment in regard to the Sea-borne import trade, yet they had not, presumably sufficient opportunities for forming any opinion as to the effects of the introduction of the tax on inland trade, about the nature and condition of which they were wholly in the dark. Regarding the appointment of two Municipal Commissioners on the Committee, the Committee of the Association pointed out that neither could properly represent native interests, in as much as being members of the Municipality which originated the scheme, they could not be expected to examine the subject from an independent point of view. The Committee concluded their letter with a prayer that a native gentleman should be appointed on the Octroi Committee to represent native commerce and trade. The Government of Bengal took this suggestion into their favorable consideration and added Babu Durga Churn Law C.I.E., to the Octroi Committee. The Committee, which sat for sometime, considered the question in all its bearings and came to the conclusion that they could not advise Government to sanction the proposal of the Municipality.

TELEGRAPH ACT.—In September last the Government of Bengal invited the opinion of the Association on the Bill to amend the Indian Telegraph Act of 1876. The Committee admitted that the Bill was an improvement as providing rules for the acquisition of land by the telegraph authorities, and awarding compensation to the owners of such land. They, however, urged that the final determination of the amount of compensation in cases of dispute should be left to the District Judge, who ought to be associated by two assessors, one to be named by each of the litigant parties. They further pointed out that Sec. 9 of the Act should be so modified as to give the District Judge power to apportion the amount of compensation among joint contending owners or their representatives; and in view thereof proposed certain modifications of the language of that Section of the Bill.

The Committee further suggested that as the Traffic and Telegraph Departments had now been amalgamated at least on the E. I Railway and Booking offices had been converted into Telegraph offices, it was necessary that Sec. 13 of the Act of 1876 should be also modified so as not to make an entry into the Telegraph room punishable by the Criminal Courts. They finally proposed that the pecuniary penalty laid down in the section should be reduced. The Bill is still pending before the Supreme Council.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BILL.—By far the most important measure of the Bengal Council to which the attention of the Committee was directed in the year under review was the Bill for Local Self-Government within the territories of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. In the Committee's letter to Government they observed that in their humble opinion there would be no real extension under the Bill of the powers enjoyed by the several Committees now working in the country; that although no sensible man expected that the Boards to be constituted should have absolute freedom of action in the sense in which it was enjoyed by the cities of Europe, still the Committee fully expected that under proper safe-guards there would be limited local autonomy. In this expectation the Committee were disappointed. They instituted a comparison between the rights of these existing Committees such as the Cess, the District Education, and the Hospital and Dispensary Committees, and showed how the present Bill contemplated to circumscribe many of the privileges and immunities now possessed by them. They pointed out that the Bill proposed to take away the power of fixing rates of Road Cess, of sanctioning Budgets and of selecting works to be undertaken by the Committees. In matters educational and medical the Boards would only have to register the decrees of the Director of Public Instruction, the Inspectors of schools and the Civil Surgeons respectively. In matters of control and guidance the Bill proposed to heap too many masters upon the Boards. Formerly the Magistrate was the ruler of the Committees, the Bill proposed to supplant the Magistrate by the Commissioner, while the Local Govern nent reserved to itself the power of supervising all measures of the Boards and of legislating for them. The elective system which was the redeeming feature of the Bill was nothing new and made no advance upon Sec. 112 of the Cess Act which provided for election at the option of Government. Unless something more substantial were given to the people, the election franchise proposed to be given would prove a nullity. The Committee also took objection to the clauses relating to the removal of members, and pointed out that they were not in keeping with the spirit and sense of freedom sought to be inspired into the elected members. That the provisions were more stringent and less rational than those made for the removal of Municipal Commissioners. Objection was also taken to the thrusting of Government officials into the Boards, as their Chairman, on the ground that for more than one reason the members feared to offend the District or the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and therefore absolutism would have its full play in such Committees. Should the Government really want to remove this draw-back, it ought to allow the Boards more substantial power in the selection of their Chairmen. It was further pointed out that by the constitution of the District Boards they would have the functions of administrative and controlling bodies; and this medley of functions was quite against the lines of policy indicated by the Secretary of State. Municipal towns were excluded from returning members to the District Boards, considering that such towns were centres of intelligence and wealth, the District Boards would lose their character of a truly representative body although appointed members may be drawn from them. The franchise should be extended to Municipal towns also. Lastly, the Committee emphatically pointed out that the reservation by Government to itself of the function of framing rules for the Boards and of interfering with the executive details at each step was inconsistent with the idea of Self-Government, and suggested that a body of general rules or outlines of such rules preventive of high-handed interference tending to subvert freedom of action would be of great advantage to the public. The Committee then examined the Bill section by section and recorded their opinion thereon. The Government of Bengal, the Committee regret to say, paid little heed to what was urged by public bodies, so that the Bill as passed will not they are afraid realize the expectations of the public.

EXTENSION OF THE VALUE PAYABLE PARCEL SYSTEM TO PARCELS SENT FROM LONDON.—In their remarks on the proposal for extension of the Value Payable Parcel system to parcels sent from London to India, the Committee held that it was undesirable to introduce the system into India on the ground that such a measure, if allowed would hamper the industry and the trade of the community. They also observed that as the industrial development of India was far less than that of England, the Value Payable Parcel system could not but tell injuriously on the business of the merchants and trades-people of this country. As the measure was not asked for by the people of the country, the Committee humbly requested the Government not to take upon themselves of their own motion, the business of common carriers which has hitherto been left to private enterprize. The committee are glad to learn that Government have finally resolved to limit the operation of the system to parcels valued at one shilling.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION.—After the promulgation of the rules for the election of Municipal Commissioners, the Committee took leave to suggest some additions and changes in them. They pointed out

the desirability of extending the franchise to Government pensioners who drew a salary of Rs. 50 or more. The other points urged by the Committee were the injustice of not allowing voters to vote by proxy or in writing; the obligation of all voters to assemble and give their votes in the presence of the presiding officer; it was further urged that the wording of Rule 27 was ambiguous and might therefore lead to error in calculating the number of voters who should be present at an election; and lastly that although the Officers of the Municipality were precluded from voting by the terms of the Rule 22, it was doubtful whether the presiding officer would also be precluded. This ambiguity should be cleared up. The Government of Bengal informed the Committee in reply, that the points urged by the Association have been duly considered, but it did not see its way to adopt their suggestions.

MR. MALABARI'S NOTES ON ENFORCED WIDOWHOOD AND INFANT MARRIAGE.—Towards the close of the year the opinion of the Association was invited by the Government of Bengal with reference to certain suggestions contained in a Note on Euforced widowhood and Infant marriage by Mr. Malabari of Bombay, Mr. Malabari pointed out the defects of the system of child marriage as entailing misery on the girls who are married at a time when they must be unfitted by their tender years to enter into the matrimonial state and when their judgement is not ripe enough to enable them to form an opinion of the judiciousness of the selection which their guardians make for them. The consequences are not only a rapid decay and exhaustion of the women of the country brought on by premature maternity, but also serious impediments which handicap young men in the race of life, and the perpetration of monsterous crimes by heads of families under pretext of marriage of the junior members thereof.

With regard to widow-marriage Mr. Malabari observed that although widows labor under no legal disability to remarry, still practically they are unable to exercise their free will in this respect, by a powerful social terrorism which under threats of severe pains and penalties successfully manages to make the law a dead letter. Mr. Malabari therefore invoked the executive aid of the Government for the removal of these social evils which in his opinion were the mother of many crimes observable in Hindu Society. The Committee tried to enter into an elaborate discussion of the subject. In the first place they brought to the notice of Government that Mr. Malabari's statements were vitiated by exaggeration and that the degree and amount of misery as described by him did not exist in the Hindu Society; that so far as they were aware sham marriages as alleged by Mr. Malabari no where existed in the shape of a criminal custom at least in Bengal, the province with which they were most familiar. The Committee further pointed out that educated public opinion had already begun to make its influence felt in the matter and had already raised the limit of marriagable age to some extent. The Committee, therefore, deprecated state interference as they feared it might lead to a reaction and stop a reform already put in motion. With regard to widow-marriage the Committee showed that the proportion of male population remaining constant, the number of spinister-marriages would be reduced in proportion to the number of widow-marriages; and the same complaints will be made by a future reformer against the prevalence of crimes among spinisters as Mr. Malabari has now made regarding widows. The Committee very strongly denied the existence of crimes among the unfortunate widows to such an extent as Mr. Malabari describes, and stated that the Widow-remarriage Act of 1856 gave all the protection that was necessary. In short they showed that unless the evils complained of by Mr. Malabari normally disappeared by reason of influences which grew from within the community itself, no amount of legislation could remove them. and any indirect exercise of the executive power of Government to deal with the questions mooted by Mr. Malabari would do more harm than good. The question is yet pending the decision of Government.

EXCISE REPORT.—In reviewing the Report of the Excise Commission forwarded to the Association by the Board of Revenue for opinion, the Committee chiefly directed their attention to that portion of the report which suggested the best means of preventing "drinking" in urban as well as rural tracts. The Committee fully concurred with the commission that no common system of excise could be so devised as would apply to all and every district. The Committee laid especial stress on the mischief the present outstil system was doing by increasing drinking habits among the people. It made country spirits cheap, much cheaper than under the sudder distillery system and therefore brought country liquor within easy reach of all classes of people, who for its dearness could not before indulge in it. Besides, the Committee pointed out that more illicit manufacture was now carried on than under the sudder distillery system. The Committee, therefore, recommended the revival of the sudder distillery system which had existed before the outstill system. They further recommended that boys should be prevented access to liquor shops and the price of liquor should also be made prohibitory. The assertion of the commission that the evil of drinking is not so serious in the interior of districts as in towns was controverted by the Committee and it was maintained that the system of distillation now in vogue carried the evil even to places where it had been utterly unknown before. The Committee regretted to find that cheapness of liquor induced the cultivating classes to use it. They next recommended that the capacity of stills should be fixed by law as was done by the Excise Act of 1859. On the authority of Dr. Warden, Chemical Examiner to the Government of Bengal, the Committee recommended that in order to get rid of Fusel oil found in weak liquor, strong liquor should be distilled. But they pointed out that all the deleterious elements mentioned could not be got rid of.

THE BENGAL TENANCY ACT.—During the year under report, the Tenancy Bill agitation was continued with undiminished vigor in the muffasil. The Central Committee of Landholders of Bengal and Behar, held their own meetings in town, while opposition meetings were held in almost every district of Bengal and Behar. At every one of these meetings resolutions condemnatory of the Bill were carried. Towards the close of the year and soon after the arrival of the new Governor General in Calcutta, a monster Meeting of Landholders of the districts within the territories of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal likely to be affected by the measure was held at the Town Hall. That Meeting proved to Government beyond the shadow of a doubt, the ruinous, unjust and confiscatory character of the Bill, and adopted a memorial to the Viceroy in Council setting forth their chief objections to the Bill. The Central Committee submitted several, other memorials both to the Secretary of State and the Government of India. But the Committee regret to say that little heed was paid by the Government to the representations of the landholders. Notwithstanding the protest of the Zemindars and of their representatives in the Legislative Council the Bill has passed into Law and is awaiting the consideration of the Secretary of State. The Central Committee did not, however, think their labours came to an end with the passing of the Bill, they convened the meeting on 20th instant at the Hall of the Association and they are glad to see that the country has unanimously and with one voice condemned the Act and declared its determination to appeal to Her Majesty's Secretary of State and to both Houses of Parliament.

ADDRESSES.—After a rule of upwards of four years, His Excellency the Marquis of Ripon made over charge of his exalted office of Viceroy to His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin. The Committee presented a farewell address to the departing Governor General and one of welcome to his successor. In their address to Lord Ripon while expressing their appreciation of his generous sympathiese with the people of this country and the philanthropic exertions he had made to improve their social and political condition, they nevertheless felt it their duty to deplore the circumstances under which the people had been compelled to make repeated and earnest representations with regard to the Bengal Tenancy Bill and the public fondly cherished the hope that their representations would be considered with attention.

In their address of welcome to His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin the Committee rejoiced that the destinies of the Empire were to be placed in the hands of a statesman whose bright past led the people to hope that their legitimate aspirations would meet with a generous and liberal response from an enlightened Government.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF ALBANY AND THAT OF MR. FAWCETT.—In the beginning of the year all classes of Her Majesty's subjects were deeply grieved to hear of the sad death of His Grace the Duke of Albany at Cannes whither he had gone for a change. The occasion was one of great trial to our beloved Sovereign the Queen-Empress of India, and the Association, in order to express the deep regret and sympathy of the people of Bengal, submitted to Her Majesty their heartfelt and sincere condolence on the mournful event. Later on India lost one of her most zealous friends by the death of Mr. Henry Fawcett, her ablest and most unflinching champion in England; and the Committee despatched a telegram and a letter of condolence expressive of their deepest regret at the loss and their sincerest sympathy with the family of the philanthropic statesman.

DEATH OF THE HON'BLE RAI KRISTODAS PAL BAHADUR.—The Hon'ble Rai Kristodas Pal Bahadur, who for more than a quarter of a century, had filled the office of Secretary of this Association and worked with such eminent zeal and conspicuous ability, succumbed to the effects of a prolonged attack of a painful malady on 21th July last; all through the long weeks he lay confined to bed and suffering from agonies which no efforts of devoted medical skill could relieve or lessen, all sections of the community throughout India evinced the greatest anxiety for his recovery. In the depth of their sorrow at the loss of their most valued collaborateur it is a melancholy satisfaction to the Committee to find that the memory of the illustrious patriot is cherished by his countrymen with profound veneration. The meeting which was held at the Town Hall in his honor in January last was a great success. It was numerously attended by eminent and influential men. Rulers and ruled met to do honor to one who had so well deserved of his country, and an influental Committee was organized to raise funds for the erection of an Eye Infirmary in Calcutta to perpetuate Rai Kristodas's Memory. The Committee of the Association resolved that his portrait should be painted and hung up in the Hall of the Association.

The Hon'ble Peary Mohun Mookerjee has filled up his place both in the Council and the Association.

FINANCE.

The following abstract shews the receipts and disbursements of the Association for the year 1884.

RECEIPTS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Balance on the 31st December 1883.			
With the Bank of Bengal	7406	0	6
In hand	1941	14	3
To Subscriptions and other receipts	9347	14	9
Total	8735	1	0
	18082	15	9

DISBURSEMENTS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Establishment and other charges	8329	12	9
Purchase of 4 per cent Govt. Securities*	9753	3	0
Balance			
Total	18082	15	9

BALANCE.

	Rs.	As.	P.
Cash in the Bank of Bengal	7995	12	9
With Gopal Babu	699	14	3
In hand	39	6	0
	739	4	3
	8735	1	0

* These securities are with other securities belonging to the Association aggregating Rs. 19500 now deposited with the Bank of Bengal as per memo 72 dated 12th February 1885.

Proposed by Babu Bijoykissen Mookerji and seconded by Babu Srish Chunder Bose that the report be adopted and the accounts for the year be passed.

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra said that as no one seemed disposed to comment on the report, he would take upon himself to say a few words on the proceedings of the Association during the past year. It had been his privilege, and also a source of great satisfaction to him to be able, year after year, to congratulate his fellow members upon the success and the progress made by this Association. Five and thirty long years had passed since it was first started, and not for a single year had they had any reason to express a regret for any short comings on the part of the Association (applause.) From the first day it was started it had gone on doing its duty faithfully, zealously,

and honestly to the utmost of its power, for the well-being and the advancement of the people of the country, and the measure of success it had achieved was patent to one and all of them. (hear hear). It was not given to an Association, existing in a country governed by foreign rulers, to command success ; you could not possibly expect that whatever you wished to be done should always secure the sysmpathy of, and at once be carried out by, Government,—that was impossible; but the next object was to secure the careful consideration from that Government, for your representations and in that respect there was not much to complain. The representatives of the Association had always met with a fair share of attention, and had to a considerable extent influenced the action of both the executive and the legislative departments. Nay more, the Government had often encouraged the Association to do its utmost to farther its objects as far as the policy of the ruling power admitted of, and it had never had occasion to regret the line of action it had taken. Unquestionably the opinions of the Association on all matters of importance had commanded the respect of the Government and none had as yet been able to impeach the liberality, honesty and the practical advantages of the measures which it had from time to time recommended. The strongest mark of the importance which the Government attached to this institution had been given to it only lately, on two different occasions—on the first, inviting the members to nominate one of their number as a member of the Supreme Legislate Council ; and second on the demise of their representative, an opportunity was again given them to select a man to fill his place. These were marks of consideration which the speaker thought was ample evidence to show that they had done well and had gone on remarkably well. It would take more time than the speaker was disposed to take up to go seriatim through the different heads in the report, but one of the most important heads in it was what he thought he could not allow to pass without a remark. He desired much (and it would be a source of melancholy satisfaction to have) to bear his humble testimony and respectful esteem for their late secretary Rai Kristodas Pal. In him he had lost a friend of five and twenty years' standing, the Association an officer of over 22 years' distinguished service, the country a single-minded and most ardent patriot, and the Hindu nation a brilliant ornament. It was a matter of some satisfaction to him to observe that the nation fully sympathised with the private friends of the late departed in the loss they had all sustained. The proceedings of the public meeting held at the Town Hall bore full evidence to the value which the public attached to the memory of the departed, and he was glad to notice from what had been just announced, that the Association had not been unmindful of the manifold services it had derived from the late Kristodas Pal. When he died it was apprehended that the Association would not be able to replace the loss, for the loss was, taken all in all, truly irreparable ; but it was a matter of satisfaction to the speaker that he was able to congratulate the Association upon their choice of a successor in the person of their present Secretary. A noble son of a noble father, the new Secretary had brought with him an amount of talent which commanded their highest admiration. In the Legislative Council he had the most arduous task before him, pitted as he was against the ablest officers of the government of this country, some 18 individuals, against one. To compare small things with great, he had, like the memorable 10,000 of Grecian history, to retreat before overwhelming numbers, but be retreated in perfect order, fighting hard for every inch of ground that he was forced to abandon. He failed, not because his case was a bad one, not because his logical resources were limited, not because his exertions were inadequate—in all these respects he was admirably fitted for his task, and did his duty with entire devotion ; but situated as he was, in this case, success was impossible. The next subject which the speaker wished to notice was the Tenancy Act. The members might think it superfluous on his part to call attention to a subject which was prominent in every one's mind at the present moment ; one and all of them felt deeply the injustice which had been done to the people of this country by the passing of that Act ; but that was the very reason which induced the speaker to notice it. The question was of the utmost importance, and in reviewing the proceedings of the past year, it could not be overlooked. The ostensible reason for the Act was the good of the people, but as it stood it could not serve any such purpose. It could benefit no one, and would benefit no one, except the Government, and he made bold to say, that the Government alone derived the highest benefit from it (applause). Under the Act the zemindar finds his ancient patrimony snatched away from him,—a patrimony which he had enjoyed for generations and centuries,—and the ryot, in the language of the author of the Bill, "is left entirely without legal protection." Who then were the persons to benefit by it? not the zemindar nor the ryot. And the third party in the case was the Government. A great deal of sympathy had been poured forth with a view to enlist public opinion on behalf of the ryots—on the imperative necessity of improving his condition ! The speaker yielded to none in his sympathy for the poorer classes of his countrymen and he challenged the whole of Bengal to show that he had ever in his life done or said any thing to the contrary. He was most ardent in his desire to do all he could to ameliorate their conditions; but he cared not for mere profession, for lip, liberality, and he felt compelled to say that there was a sad want of consistency between the professions and the acts of those who proclaimed themselves as ryots' friends ? The first distinguished officer who undertook the improvement of the condition of the ryot by overhauling the Rent Act,ended by imposing a tax of 5 per cent. upon the ryots. Another gentleman came in, and he was equally full of the milk of human kindness, and he imposed another tax on them equally oppressive. The law is now passed for a third and a fourth tax. The impression seems to prevail in certain quarters, that the ryot has many more lives than the proverbial cat, and you cannot kill him by overbleeding. Bleeding, repeated bleeding, was the way in which they desired to improve the condition of the ryot. The speaker would leave his audience to say whether the imposition of repeated heavy taxes ever improved any one's condition. For his part he would denounce as atrocious any attempt to improve his condition by bleeding him. It would be an insult to the many great men whose names were associated with the Tenancy Act to harbour the idea that the plan was to transfer a part of the property of the zemindar to the ryot and then to tax the ryot and the speaker would be the last person to permit even the shadow of such an idea to cross his mind. The Government for certain had no such object in view. It did honestly and sincerely wish to do good to the people ; but it was sadly mistake in the utility of the course it adopted ; for the law which had been passed meant wholesale bleeding all round, and great deal of tramelling of personal liberty of action, against which the had people protested the other day in that hall. The result of that protest it was not for him (the speaker)to anticipate,'but he fully believed that they had done their duty,' and it also showed that they had determined not to leave a single stone unturned to get the obnoxious Act set aside. They would perhaps fail, but that was no reason, if they had a spark of manliness in them, to abandon their opposition to it. Their duty was plain before them,and if they failed, they would have the satisfaction of knowing that they had done all that it was possible for them to do. As long as there is the last gasp in their body, let their motto be "never say die." Let them work till then for justice,and their exertions would ultimately end in success. The speaker heartily supported the motion for the adoption of the report, and while doing so he had to call attention to a paper which had been just then handed to him. It bore unquestionable testimony to the success of the Association. It was the abstract statement of their receipts and disbursements for the past year. It showed that they closed the previous year with a balance in hand of Rs. 7,747 ; that they realised during the past year in subscriptions and from other sources Rs. 9733 ; that their expenditure during the past year was Rs. 7,436, and that they had been at able out of the assets in hand to invest in Government securities a sum of Rs. 2,000 at a cost of Rs. 1941, and that on the day of closing the account they had a balance in hand of Rs. 8780. This was the highest testimony to the satisfactory progress of this institution that could be laid before the meeting. If they went on at this rate they would never have to be pinched for the sinews of war. He might add that they had, besides, in Government securities a sum of Rs. 20,000 in the custody of the Bank of Bengal, to their credit.

Maharaja Narendra Krishna, President of the Association, who was in the chair, said : Gentlemen,—The report now on the table contains a statement of the operations of our Committee during the past year. It embraces representations made by us on matters of public importance to Government. With regard to the proposed octroi duty in this city, we asked the Government to nominate one of our body to be a member of the Committee appointed by it to report thereon. A duty of this nature is liable to touch articles consumed daily by the people. Generally they are produced in this country, consisting of cereals, sweets, and vegetables which are needed by the rich and poor residents of the town. To the latter the imposition of this tax would be felt as a great hardship in consequence of the rise in the prices of these articles of food ; not to mention what an expensive thing it has become for the people to reside in the city. Such a tax should not, therefore, be levied. I believe when this subject was first broached, the Government of Bengal looked upon it with an unfavourable eye. As the report of the Committee has been submitted to Government, exhibiting a wide diversity of opinion, we hope the matter will now be dropped. In view of amending the Telegraph Act of 1876, a communication was received by us from Government calling for our opinion. We have recommended that the lands required by the Telegraph authorities should be dealt with by two assessors conjointly with the District Judge, and the award by the latter of compensation for lands belonging to the owner should be considered final. The matter ought now to be settled in a manner satisfactory to both parties. The Government, I regret to observe, has not adopted our suggestions in reference to the Local Self-Government Bill. We expected it would entrust the board of management under this Act with the privileges of fixing the rates of road-cess, sanctioning the budgets, selecting the public works to be undertaken, and granting funds for the maintenance of the medical and educational establishments. For the execution of these several functions, eligible natives of this country, on a larger scale than has hitherto been the case, should be nominated to the Committee, and the rules for the conduct of business should be drawn up by the members, as is the practice with the Calcutta Corporation. The Patwari Bill is based on unsound principles. The Canungoes to be appointed under it cannot be expected to know the nature of the various land tenures which judicial officers of proved ability and merit fail to adjudicate properly. Their decisions regarding them are generally unsatisfactory, and persons not possessing a proper knowledge and experience of such tenures, and not having received a regular training in the judicial branch of the service, are incompetent. So the imposition of a cess proposed in this Bill ought not to be sanctioned by Government whose aim it is to benefit the country. The multiplication of cesses is ruining the agricultural and landed classes of Bengal. I am unable to comment on other important subjects mentioned in our report, but I hope that several gentlemen who are now present will discharge this duty satisfactorily. I am glad to observe that my young worthy friend, the Hon. Peary Mohun Mukerji, our representative in the Legislative Council of His Excellency the Viceroy, has fully realised our expectations in the advocacy of the rights of zemindars and ryots on the Bengal Tenancy Act controversy. Though mostly his proposals, with reference to the amendment of the Act in the admitted interests of the parties concerned, were rejected, he exercised great discretion in explaining to the Council the objectionable nature of the Act

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We should unanimously accord him our hearty thanks for ably discharging his duties in that august assembly. We deeply mourn for the untimely death of our valued and esteemed friend, Rai Kristo Dass Paul, Bahadur, the late Secretary to the British Indian Association. A public meeting was held at the Town Hall after his death to perpetuate his memory, at which all classes of the community, including his Honer the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and other high personages, testified their love and respect for him in a suitable manner.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

The following Office-bearers were then elected for the ensuing year. Proposed by Babu Si anath Roy and seconded by Babu Srish Chunder Bose :—

President.—Babu Doorga Churn Law, C. I. E. Vice-Presidents.—Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur; H. H. the Maharaja Kristo Protab Sahai, Bahadur, of Hutwa; Raja Harendra Krishna Bahadur; Raja Suttyanund Ghosal. Bahadur. Members of the Committee.—H. H. the Hon. the Maharaja Luchmessur Sing, Bahadur of Durbhanga; Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, K. C. S. I.; Babu Joykissen Mookerjee: Raja Rajendra Naryan Deb; Dr. Rajendralala Mittra, Rai Bahadur. LL. D., C. I. E.; Hon. Kumar Baikanto Nath Dey; Kumar Debendra Mullick; Babus Jadu Lal Mullick; Gobind Lal Seal; Denonath Mullick; Chundrakant Mookerji; Gris Chunder Ghosh; Raja Purno Chunder Singh, Bahadur; Nawab Mir Mohamed Ally; Hon. Rai Joyprokash Lal Bahadur; Herjeebhoy Manickjee Rustomjee, Esq.: Babus Obhoychurn Goho; Shama Churn Law; Jogendro Chunder Ghose; Guru Das Bannerji, D. L., Kali Nath Mitter; Sreenath Chundra; Surendranath Pal Chowdhry; Baikonto Nath Bosu; Kali Prosonno Ghose; Saligram Sing; Raj Kumar Sarbadhikari; Babu Koonjo Lal Banerji, Rai Bahadur; Moulvi Mahomed Yusuff; Kuder Surut Chander Singh; Babus Sourendro Mohun Tagore; Babu Hurbans Sahi; Charoochunder Mullick.—Secretary.—Hon. Peary Mohun Mookerjee. BabusKoonjo Behary Mullick; Bejoy Kissen Mukerjee; Kissorylal Cossaiu; Sitanath Roy.

Babu Durga Charan Laha returned his most cordial thanks for the honour which had been done him in electing him President of the Association for the ensuing year.

On the motion of Babu Koonjolal Bannerji, a vote of thanks was also accorded to the retiring President for his services during the past year.

FUTURE PROJECTS.

Babu Jogul Kishore said that the recent proceedings of both the Bengal and the Indian Legislative Councils prominently brought to public notice the inherent defects in their constitution. There was an undue preponderance of the official element in both. In the Supreme Council, out of nineteen members, fourteen are in the service of the Crown, while in the provincial Chamber the non-officials numbered four against seven official members. In spite, therefore, of the indignant protest of the Hon. Mr. Macaulay in his speech at the dinner at the Trades' Association, there could be no doubt that the national voice found but a feeble echo within the Council Halls. The public opinion of the country had no chance whatever of prevailing over the opinions and the views of few Government officials. Never was the truth of this observation more mournfully illustrated than during the progress of the Bengal Tenancy Bill through the Imperial Legislature. It was in the recollection of the members that of the numerous amendments by the Maharaja of Durbhanga and the Hon. Peary Mohun Mookerji, almost all were lost, and the mode in which they were lost forcibly showed that full freedom of discussion and complete independence of thought in the sense in which they were understood in Europe belonged to the future rather than to the past or the present of the Legislative assemblies of this country. When an amendment was moved, the member in charge of the Bill had simply to declare it was not acceptable to him, and the official phalanx instantly arranged themselves on the side of Government, and the motion was smothered at its birth. The same scene was enacted in the Bengal Legislature during the debate on the Local Self-Government Bill. If the Legislative Councils were to fulfil their true functions as deliberative assemblies, the public opinion of the country should be accorded a really fair chance of representatiou side by side with the views of the Government on the questions that came up for discussion. Better far to proclaim openly that the country had no right to speak through its delegates in the Chambers; better far to declare that it was Cæsar's will and must be carried out, than accord to them a sham constitution, and to turn the Legislature into an instrument simply to register the decrees of the Executive Government. He trusted the Association would direct its attention to this important subject.

Nawab Mir Mohamed Ali said that he wished to invite the attention of this meeting to a subject which was at the present moment a crying evil in the administration of justice in the mofussil. He referred to the exorbitant costs which parties have to incur in the trial of suits of small values. The Court-fees, the process-fees, fees for affidavits, searching fees, and a number of other fees swell up the costs to such an enormous extent that not in a small proportion of cases the amount for which the defendant was finally made liable came to double, treble, and even four times the amount of the original claim; but this did not include many items of expenditure, such as travelling and lodging expenses of parties, &c., which were never taken into account by the Court. In a large majority of cases these heavy costs were to be paid by the poor defendants in these suits. In rent suits the rayats had ordinarily to pay from three to four times the amount of rent actually due by them. A large portion of these costs went to the coffers of Government. The solicitude which Government had lately shown for the welfare of the poor rayat was therefore, wholly unintelligible. They had interdicted by law the voluntary payment by a rayat of an enhanced rent exceeding the previous rent by more than two annas in the rupee, and yet they knowingly tolerated a procedure by which a rayat was compelled to pay three or four times the amount actually due by him. The zemindar was held guilty of an act of oppression if he took from a willing rayat an enhanced rent which exceeded by one-tenth or one eleventh of the amount previously paid; but the Government was free to take double or treble the amount of arrears of rent as their remuneration for helping the zemindar to recover the same. When there was a large surplus of receipts over expenditure on the score of judicial administration, it was a great scandal that such a state of things should continue. He thought, therefore, that this Association should move in his matter, and try to induce the 'Government to reduce the scale of fees and other law costs at present levied in the institution and in the trial of suits of small values.'

Babu Sirish Chunder Bose said :—I beg to supplement the proposal just made by Babu Shita Nath Roy with a few words of my own on the subject of the Patwari Bill, now pending consideration before the Legislative Council of Bengal, which can be practically shown to be of no material benefit for either the zemindar or the ryot. At this late hour of the meeting, I am not going to inflict a lengthened speech, and hence my remarks would be cut short as much as possible. The Bill is intended to supply a necessary auxiliary and corollary of the Bengal Tenancy Act, the salutary provisions of which concerning the cadastral survey and the record of rights, could not be, it is said, invested with practical utility and productive of beneficial results, unless the Bill in question is clothed with the authority of law. The object of the Bill is said to have been to collect requisite informations regarding the agricultural statistics of the country and the complete record of rights for the purpose of helping the landlord and the tenant in the management of their respective business. It is proposed to abolish duel control and make the Patwari a Government servant and to levy a cess called the Patwari cess, at the rate of 3 pice per rupee on the gross rental to be borne by the parties benefitted by the measure, in order to defray the costs to be incurred by the revival of the Patwari system.

Admitting the soundness of the object that guides the constituted authorities of the land to bring forward this measure, which if successfully carried out, will contribute not a little to the efficiency of good government, but still I am disposed to think that the schemes by which the Government has attempted to carry out its laudable object are not such as to commend to the approval of the parties infurtherance of whose interest legislative interference is said to have been considered necessary, since the Patwari, with inadequate remuneration cannot be expected to belong to the honest class of officers sufficiently alive to the conscientious sense of duty and responsibility beyond the reach of temptation, the practical result of which would be that the opulent zemindar and the influential ryot. through the charming influence of gold' would reap the benefit of law at the expense of the poor ryot and the petty landlord respectively, and that the accounts submitted by such Patwari can not be expected to be accurate and correct, his chief source of information being to emanate from the zemindar, and that such acacounts cannot but be mischievous, in as much the same is to be looked upon as reliable evidence, coming as it does from the Patwari's capacity as a public servant as held by the Court of Directors in their Despatch in 1815. "By such appointment if his natural connection with the zemindar were destroyed, it might be feared that the Patwari would in many cases be rendered the more (from his character as a public servant) of being the tool of oppression on the ryot and frand on Government. In other cases fostering the intrigues of the ryots, he might bring ruin on the zemindar and severely injure public and revenue."

Leaving aside the question of the propriety of the revival of the Patwari system, the beneficial operation of which had been frustrated in olden days during the Mahomedan and the British Governments, and the question of the disability of the *Patwari* the *Cannungo* to decide questions affecting the rights and nature of the various kinds of land tenures which can be better dealt with by Judicial Officers of proud ability and merit, as just now aptly remarked by Maharaja Narendra KrishnaBahadoor,andhaving due regard to the fact of the Patwari Cess having been abolished by Lord Ripon in the North Western Provinces, the Bill is all the more to be condemned in as much as it goes to pave the way for direct taxation,which has been found by experience to be quite unsuited to the circumstances of the country and the habits and nature of the people, not to speak of extreme hardship, endless annoyance and harrassment occassioned by the inquisitorial enquiry proceeding from the same. Hopes are entertained by the learned and hon'ble mover in charge of the Bill, that the introduction of the measure is not likely to give rise to any additional taxation upon the land and that the interests of both the landlord and the tenant would be best safe-guarded against the extortion now practised by the Patwari upon both of them, with reference to which I may be permitted te observe, and with due deference the hon'ble member and making due allowance for his rare talents and ripe experience that when the Patwari is to be made a Government servant independent of the zemindar charged, not with the duty of the collection of rents, but with the more responsible task of regular maintenance of the systematic record of rights, and when the zemindar will be under an obligation to bear the expenses of maintaining a suitable staff of collecting machinery for the collection of his rents, and when the obligation of the ryot to pay *Hisabana* to the zemindar's Gomasta, if he is now assumed to do so, will remain all the same even after the practical introduction of this measure, over and above the tax to be paid by them to the Government. How under th ecircumatances the hopes held out by the learned member are expected to be practically realized, I fail to understand.

With thore remarks I would respectfully urge on the Committee the importance of taking up the matter and of making due representation to the Government on the subject.

(See page 211.)